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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 1ST JULY.

WE COMMEND to Dr. Payne the following, which we take from the *Civil and Military Gazette* :

Were it possible for two blacks to make one white, the Bengalees would be almost justified, in resenting Dr. Payne's exposure of the terrible mortality among infant children, especially in Calcutta. They might draw the attention of their energetic Health Officer to the appalling memoir submitted by Dr. Brochard to the Academie de Medicine from which it appears that the diminution in the population of France, which has been causing so much solicitude among thoughtful men in that country, is to be traced in a great measure to the shameful mismanagement of the little ones. Even in the healthy district of Nigent, Dr. Brochard ascertained that among the legitimate children cared for by their own parents, the mortality amounts to 22 per cent., and among those sent out to be nursed to 35 per cent., while the State foundlings die at the rate of 42 per 100. Under the best circumstances, it is inevitable that foundlings should perish quicker than nurselings and that these should have a worse time of it than babes reared in their own homes. Nevertheless it is startling to learn that the average which prevails at Nogent, shocking as it seems, is exceptionally good compared with that of many other places. The unpublished returns of a Government Court of Inquiry show that in 5,000 communes the mortality among children under twelve months of age is not less than 51 per cent. It is even asserted by Dr. Brochard, as the result of his own inquiries, that throughout the length and breadth of the country, not more than one child in two completes its first year. Nor is this all. It had been noticed that the number of children registered as stillborn is out of all proportion to similar cases where the mothers are married women. The suspicions thus naturally engendered led to a searching investigations that established the existence of class of persons, chiefly midwives and low apothecaries, who live by producing abortion, and it is stated, on professional authority, that four-fifths of the cases of premature confinement are brought about by foul play. Let the curtain descend upon this horrible revelation.

We have great respect for Dr. Payne's learning, but his power of generalization borders on the sentimental, and is not therefore always a safe guide, in practical operations. If he had studied the figures of infant mortality in France, he would have doubtless spared us his harrowing pictures of infant mortality in Calcutta. But he sought to be sensational, and for a time succeeded with the unthinking public in casting odium upon the Municipality, which was, however, in no way responsible for Death's dismal sway among infants.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA, on the eve of his departure for Europe, performed an act of pilgrimage on the afternoon of the 3rd April to the shrine of Abdulazeem in the neighbourhood of Teheran, and while proceeding there, in passing through the square near the gate of his palace, his carriage was surrounded by a band of 50 soldiers belonging to one of the Ispahan regiments on duty at the capital, who presented a petition and immediately afterwards closed in a menacing manner on His Majesty's carriage. They were ordered to retire by the persons in attendance, but not having done so an affray ensued, in which two of the Shah's attendants were knocked off their horses and some of the soldiers were wounded, one of the Shah's windows was broken by stones, and the coachman having been ordered to drive on rapidly did so and got clear of the crowd. On reaching the next regiment an officer was sent with a company of men to seize the ringleaders. And on the Shah's return from the place of pilgrimage ten of the number were executed, and of 20 others some were subjected to punishment by the lash, and others marked as criminals by having a portion of the ear cut off. So the Shah does not sleep in the bed of roses.

WE LATELY published a letter regarding Mr. Stevens, the Magistrate of Nudden, to which another correspondent thus replies :

Almost all the pleaders, Muktears, and zemindars of this district besides some 5000 other people signed the petition which was sent up to Government on the occasion of Mr. Stevens' late transfer from this district ; your correspondent must have come from Bedlam to think that he is better able to judge of Mr. Stevens' administration than all these people. Your correspondent does not also care to have correct information of things on which he ventures to edify the public. He blames Mr. Stevens' for "shelving" the Tentoolbaria case. The case was not shelved at all ; and if Mr. Stevens' had not more brains in his head than your correspondent or if he were a vain and fussy man like him we should not have had to see Mr. White, the accused, in custody on a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. It was only because Mr. Steven's concieved the excellent plan of letting things appear as if every thing had been hushed up, that he was able to collect evidence on behalf of the prosecution.

The Nuddea people all over the district agree in thinking that Mr. Stevens is the best and kindest Magistrate they ever have had. It has grieved them beyond measure to see that your correspondent should select this time, when he is at the eve of his departure for his distant home, to abuse him. The Nudden people are stupid enough to be admirers on the "cowish" innocence of Mr. Stevens, and all that they beg of your correspondent is that he will be pleased to leave them and their Magistrate alone, though Mr. Stevens is far above taking notice of the "*reptilish* attack, if I *may* coin a word, of your correspondent.

We are always willing to hear both sides of a subject, but our correspondent ought to learn better manners than call an opponent "a reptile."

WE HAVE RECEIVED several letters regarding the late sub-registrar of Bhola in Dukhin Shabazpore, enclosing copy of a certain judgment reflecting upon him. We beg to tell our correspondents that we recommended the restoration of the registry office on public grounds quite irrespective of the personal claims or merits of the sub-registrar to which we alluded only incidentally. Our own information is that he did his work well as a sub-registrar, but if the people of the locality have any complaint against him personally, they ought to represent it to Government. The question of the abolition of the rural registrar's office ought to be decided independently of personal matters.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us about Cess collections in Cuttack :

It is since two years ago that I informed you of the gross illegality of the Cuttack Road Cess Committee to levy the Road Cess from the holdings situated within the limit of the Jajpore Municipality in the District of Cuttack, contrary to the express provisions made in the Road Cess Act to exempt those holdings from the assessment of the Cess in question Some of the Cess payers of the place had also about the same time presented a petition to the Collector of Cuttack claiming exemption and their application was enquired into through the local kanungo but no orders seem to have been passed either exempting them from further payment of the cess or refunding to them what they have already paid to which they are lawfully entitled. The papers seem to have been filed *shamala nuthi*.

Now I beg to inform you that the public works cess has similarly been levied from them. The Cess payers cannot resist such illegal exactions of the cesses in question as they have already experienced, that on default of payment their properties will be attached and that they will in consequence be put to serious inconveniance, trouble and expense which will amount to ten times the amount of the cesses they are required to pay.

But who is responsible for such illegalities ? You are doubtless aware what a howl did the authorities raise against the illegal exactions of the zemindars from their tenants though the exactions were made with their tacit consent. Is it not discreditable to our Cuttack authorities to pitch into the zemindars to be illegal exactions while they are themselves committing illegalities ? I hope the Government will take this matter into consideration and do justice to the Cess-payers.

AN AMBASSADOR from Burma, accompanied by a Secretary, arrived in Rome on the 8th May, and two days afterwards was received by the King. The Envoy presented letters of condolence for the death of Victor Emmanuel and of felicitation on the accession to the Throne of King Humbert.

FURTHER NEWS of the Chinese successes in Kashgaria, derived from Russian sources, states that the Chinese had placed a garrison of 1,000 men in each of the Kashgar towns occupied by them, and that they had commanded the natives to produce horses for a Campaign which was to be undertaken this spring. At Zanzibazar the Chinese found about 700 "small sized cannon meant to be carried on the back of camels." These guns had not been in use. They lay under velvet and brocade coverings and were all supplied from England.

TUESDAY, 2ND JULY.

THE JUDGES of the Punjab Chief Court (Messrs. Plowden and Smyth, J. J.) have given judgment in the matter of the petition of Mr. E. P. Henderson, C. S., Officiating Government Advocate, applying to be enrolled an Advocate of the Chief Court. The Judges decided that they had not, under the Punjab Court's Act XVII. of 1877, power to admit Advocates. The petition was, therefore, rejected. So law has triumphed over executive authority.

AT A GENERAL Court Martial, assembled at Nynee Tal on Wednesday, the 12th day of June 1878, Lieutenant Gilbert Lloyd Elliott, 13th Hussars, was arraigned on the following charge :—

CHARGE.

With conduct unbecoming an officer, and to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in having at Nynee Tal, on the 29th April 1878, entered the room, in the Mayo Hotel, occupied by Lieutenant H. T. Lane, of the same, regiment, and in pursuance of a previous quarrel, used personal violence to that officer by seizing him by the neck and kicking him.

The Court found him guilty and sentenced him to be reduced to the bottom of the list of Lieutenants of the army and of his regiment, and further, that he be severely and publicly reprimanded. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in confirming the sentence remarks :

The sentence is extremely lenient. Admitting that Lieutenant Elliott received provocation from being coarsely addressed, the Court had evidence that the manner in which he resented it, was by language still more objectionable ; and that when he actually used violence, sufficient time had elapsed to allay any excitement which might have arisen out of the original provocation. The Commander-in-Chief expects officers to posses sufficient self control to enjoy strife and contest in many games without loss of temper, and without lowering themselves by the use of foul language, or by resort to personal violence.

Lieutenant G. T. Elliott is hereby severely reprimanded. He is to be released from arrest and directed to return to his duty as junior of his rank in his regiment and in the army.

Such is military discipline. The infusion of a little of this spirit into civil administration for the maintainance of discipline would do much good.

A JUDGE at Bellary has sentenced a girl 7 years of age, to transportation for life, for having at her mother's command, when all were starving, thrown her infant sister into a well. She was recommended to mercy.

A PASSENGER on board the Messageries Steamer *Peiho*, homeward bound, writes to a Ceylon paper that they have "a living wonder on board in the person of a Chinese giant, who is going to the Paris Exhibition on spec. He stands over 7½ feet high, and is supposed to weigh over 40 stone ! As no berth is long enough for him he has to sleep on the table."

THE CELEBRATED Chinese Encyclopædia in 5,000 volumes it is said is on its way to England. To this remarkable work there is no parallel that we are aware of in the literature of any country, and in it is digested the entire mass of Chinese literature known at the time of its compilation. It is illustrated by drawings and maps, and includes treatises dating from over 1000 years before the Christian era to about 1700 A. D.

BY AN INGENIOUS instrument, the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, has been able to register the exact number of hours of sunshine during last year. In the twelve months ending February 10th, the sun was above the horizon at London 4,554 hours, the amount of sunshine during this time was only 1286·1 hours, that is to say, the Londoners had only 29 per cent. of the sunshine they were entitled to, according to the astronomers. The Winter months received very little—January only 35 hours, February only 40 hours, December only 27 hours ; in January and February there were 14 days each in which there was no sunshine, and in December 16 days. June, July, and August had only one day each, when there was no sunshine.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD JULY.

OFFICIAL returns state that, during the year 1876-77, 462,240 head of cattle died in the province of Mysore. The causes assigned were the prevalence of murrain, the want of fodder, and the drought. A local paper is of opinion that even the above figures do not represent all the mortality in cattle, and that several hundred heads of cattle, stolen and killed by the famine-stricken people, have been left out of the calculation.

THE ADVENTURES OF AN EX-BENGAL CIVILIAN. We take the following from the London letter of the *Pioneer* :

"Some of your readers may recognize the hero (a retired Bengal civilian) of the following little anecdote :—I was getting into a 2nd class carriage of the underground railway at the St. James's Park Station, when I heard a voice at my shoulders :—"What, not at the Derby !" (it was last Wednesday), and, looking round, I recognised an old friend. He got into the same carriage, and we both got out at the same station—Notting Hill Gate. We had compared notes, and found we were going for some distance in the same direction ; and so agreed to walk together. On mounting the steps, however, my friend said :—"Just wait one minute, if you don't mind. My boots are so dirty, I will give this little shoe-black a turn." When the boy had polished one boot, my friend said :—"There, I think that will do. The other one is not so bad ?" And he presented the shoe black with a half-penny. The boy of course at once set up a clamour and declared his fee was a penny. "Yes," said my friend, "for two boots it is a penny : but half work, half pay, all the world over." But the little shoe-black retorted as quick as thought :—"I don't think, Sir, when you bought them boots, the boot-marker'd have let you take one at less than the price of the pair." By this time five or six people, amused at the discussion, were stopping to listen. If, however, the excivilian had still been in his own cutcherry, he could not have spoken with calmer superiority :—"Ingenious, but won't bear scrutiny. If the boots had been ready-made, the boot-maker

would not perhaps have broken the pair; but if I had only one leg, and the bootmaker had made me one boot *to order*, he would not have charged me for two. Possibly, if you could show me that the boot you have cleaned was larger than the other, you might have some ground to go on in claiming the larger part of a penny; but my right foot happens to be the larger of the two, and it is the left which you have polished so nicely." By this time the by-standers had grown to at least a dozen, and most of them were on the broad grin. But the shoe-black was not beaten yet.—"Well, Sir," he pleaded, "is it was not the biggest of the two, I am sure it was the dirtiest." "Hump! said my friend, "that is more to the purpose; though there lurks a fallacy in *that* too. Nevertheless, here's a three-penny bit for you, if only because you resorted to argument instead of invective. And then, with an apology to me for the detention, my friend started calmly off without even a glance at the witnesses of the little scene to see how it had impressed them. I think most Bengal civilians of more than eight or ten years standing will be able to guess who the principal performer in the above dialogue must have been."

Who can this hero be?

THE PROPRIETOR of the *Kiran*, a native paper published in Poona, was called up by the Collector of that district for publishing certain articles on the Indian Expeditionary Force, which were hostile to Government. The proprietor was warned by the Collector not to publish such articles in future, and discharged. Will he be allowed to reproduce Mr. Gladstone's article in the *Nineteenth Century*?

A CORRESPONDENT at Durbhanga says that that district, which was suffering from scorching heat for over a month, has been relieved by rain, which poured on continuously and copiously for three days consecutively.

A CORRESPONDENT from Kakina says that the *Punneah* or the initial day of Rent collection was observed at Kakina with great pomp. The zemindar Babu Mohimarunjun Rai Chowdry had to sit up for three days to receive rents. An annual report of management was read on the third day when the proceedings terminated. The rains, which had so long held back, have commenced to pour and revived the drooping spirits of the people. But there is now so much water that it is feared the seeds on the low lands may perish, if there be more rain.

REFERRING to the postal arrangements in the Ilsoba Post Office on which we commented the other day a correspondent says—"We had been formerly receiving letters at about 8 o'clock in the morning, but for nearly a month past we have been receiving letters at nearly 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The outward mail from Ilsoba leaves the place at 8 o'clock and so we have no time to answer letters on the day of arrival."

ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT writing to a morning contemporary says: "Owing to a recent postal arrangement, the Hallishahar Post Office has become a branch of the Chakda Post Office, a place about 30 or 35 miles from Hallishahar. The result is that registered and bearing letters and parcels, on their way to and from Hallishahar, are delayed one day because they have to pass through Chakda." So complaints against the new postal arrangements are rife everywhere.

THURSDAY, 4TH JULY.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has called the attention of the Government of India to a letter from the Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company to their Agent regarding the frequency of fires in that portion of their line on which Warrora Coal is used. It appears that in January and February of the present year an unusually large number of instances of Waggons on fire in trains occurred on the Nagpore line where Warrora Coal is used. The damage to rolling stock and the loss resulting from meeting claims for compensation form a heavy charge on the Company's revenue; and the Secretary of State thinks it is very desirable to ascertain by careful enquiry on the spot what foundation there is for the apprehension apparently entertained by the Directors that these fires are due to some peculiarity in the character of the Warrora Coal.

WE ARE informed that a very satisfactory settlement of a question of considerable difficulty, which has for sometime been under discussion by the Home and Indian authorities, has lately been concluded by the Secretary of State with respect to the joint purse arrangement between the Eastern and Indo-European Telegraph Companies. This arrangement makes it the interest of the two companies that telegrams between England and India should proceed by the Red Sea rather than by the Russian or the Turkish Branch of the so-called Indo-European Route, with which our Persian Gulf cable is connected. The Indo-European Company invited the Government to join in the joint purse agreement offering terms which it is calculated would at once increase the earnings of the Persian Gulf lines by £25,000 a year with good prospect of progressive augmentation subsequently. Lord Salisbury considered that this offer should be accepted on the understanding that the endeavours to improve the Turkish line should not be relaxed, and that any earnings of the Persian Gulf Telegraph should be thrown into the joint purse.

A CORRESPONDENT complains that the Ferry Steamer, which plies at Dhubri on the Bramaputra twice a day and which has become a necessity to all classes of people, is very capriciously withdrawn now and then under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner of Goalparah. The toll levied at this ferry is the income of the Public Works Department, but the executive control rests with the Deputy Commissioner. We are informed that the capricious exercise of authority by the Deputy Collector causes much public inconvenience.

THE RAINS may now be said to have fairly set in, but one peculiarity of this year's season is that though it is July the fall up to this day has been very scanty except in the northern districts, such as Rungpore Dinagepore, Julpigori and Cooch Behar, where the downpour has been so heavy that fears are entertained that if it do not moderate soon, there will be serious injury to the crops. In the Orissa division the rains are still holding off and the cultivation of the rice crop is retarded; from parts of the Orissa districts it is reported that the seeds have been killed by drought. Rain has fallen in Behar, but locusts are committing great havoc there.

A SUBSCRIBER at Ramporehat sends us the following complaint against the Post Office:

"It is a matter much to be regretted that postal complaints are not now taken notice of even in cases of importance. About a month ago I complained to the P. M. General of Bengal about the inconvenience felt by the public in general of this place in closing the out-going mails at 6 P. M. altered to 8 P. M. I am sorry to say far from noticing the complaint my letter was not even acknowledged.

THERE IS hope that the telephone might come to the relief of the deaf if the experiment noted below should succeed:

Mr. Severn, Newcastle, New South Wales, describes in the *Sydney Mail* of March 30th a singular discovery he has made, whereby deaf people can be made to hear by means of the telephone. After describing a very simple telephone which he constructed out of a tin pot, the closed end of which he opened and tied over it a piece of parchment, passing a fine string through the centre and making a knot inside, he says:—Make a loop in the string some 3ft. long, put this loop over the forehead of the listener—the deaf man, cause him to place the palms of his hands flat and hard against the ears, let the loop pass over the hands, and now this listener will hear the smallest whisper let him be deaf or not. This fact may appear extraordinary; it is, nevertheless, true that a deaf man may thus be made to hear the voice, music, &c.

WE SEE it stated that Mr. Khekushroo N. Cabraji, Editor of the *Rast Goftar*, has been appointed Assistant Press Commissioner for Bombay. So the Press Bureau will by and bye become a large department.

IN RECOGNITION of loyal and good service rendered to Government during the Surat riots, the title of Khan Bahadur has been conferred by the Viceroy on Mir Ghulam Baba of Surat. Is it not too early to distribute honors in connection with the Surat riots?

FRIDAY, 5TH JULY.

THE LIQUOR brought into Bombay is liable to an imperial fee of Rs. 2-4 a gallon, and an additional fee of 4 annas a gallon as municipal town duty. But Calcutta gets no share of the liquor license revenue.

THE INDIAN CHARIVARI is decidedly improving. The present number is excellent. But we are sorry to observe that the Album portraits, which were an attraction, are to be discontinued. Are the subjects really exhausted or is Buck exhausted?

THE PRINCE OF WALES' PAVILION at the Paris Exhibition, it seems, is not open to all. The Paris Correspondent of the *Pioneer* says that he presented his ticket, when the Policeman on duty, consulted with some one inside, put on an encouraging smile, and said, opening the door—"I believe, Monsieur, the Press can go anywhere." Such is the respect paid to the Press.

APROPOS of Mr. Metcalfe's attitude at a recent municipal meeting the *Behar Herald* writes:

We would ask Mr. Metcalfe to unlearn all that he learnt in Behar. Here he was all-in-all, and no one, at least no native ever dared to say "no" to his proposals. If he has not yet forgotten the *Behar Upkar Sabha* and the visits which he received every Saturday from the *raeeses* of the town, we would ask him to do so now. Calcutta is not Patna and the Municipal Commissioners there is not *jo hazoor* members of the Patna Municipality or of the *Upkar Sabha*.

THE FINANCIAL REFORMER, Liverpool, makes the following remarks on the Calcutta meeting on Indian Finance and Taxation:

A verry remarkable "Public Meeting, held at the Town Hall of Calcutta, on 2nd March last, regarding Indian Taxation and Expenditure, forms an appropriate sequel to, and commentary upon the Debate in the Lagislative Council which formed the subject of an article in our April number. We call the meeting remarkable, and in our opinion it is not a little so, to find a number of natives, for the speakers are all Orientals, expressing themselves in English with perfect fluency and correctness, criticising the financial measures of Government with great freedom and independence, yet with respect and courtesy quoting blue books and acts of parliament as if to the manner born, and while unreservedly admitting the benefits which the rule of England has conferred upon India, pointing out various defects and errors well worthy the attention of all who are set in authority over them. In fact, no assembly of English gentlemen could have acquitted themselves better.

THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN HERALD reproduces from the *Times* the following from an "Anglo-Indian" protesting against the proposal to take the Indian troops at Malta on a visit to England:

"If the Sepoys come to England, they will doubtless be very much impressed, though in a manner somewhat different from the expectation of some sanguine M. Ps. What will be the chief novelty they will witness? They will see for the first time Englishmen and Englishwomen of the degraded type characteristic of our town masses. To their amazement they will find themselves surrounded by myriads of stunted sickly beings, the like of whom for whitemen have never entered their imagination. Puny sahibs who pick pockets, or, if brave, kick their wives, or, if very courageous, (and ten to one) kick a policeman! Filthy sahibs, whose persons are never cleaned! Raddled mem-sahibs, who reek of gin and walk the streets in rags in the hope of selling their loathsome embraces. Everywhere dirt, drunkenness, disease, dishonesty, and riot. The stately Rajput, whose personal habits are as refined as those of the highest gentleman in the land, who scarcely ranks a drunkard as a human being at all, and who admires nothing but strength and comeliness and physical daring—what an idea he will carry away of the 'Imperial race,' whose members he has hitherto felt no shame in acknowledging as 'masters!'"

We believe the late Babu Dwarkanath Tagore, when he visited England, wrote to his friends in Calcutta that he could hardly identify the whereabouts or trace the pedigree of most of the governing men in India.

A GRATEFUL Conservative calls Lord Salisbury and Lord Beaconsfield the Soda and Brandy of the Congress!

AN ASSAM Correspondent says that Mr. Campbell, the Deputy Commissioner of Gowalparah, who has induced the zemindars to subscribe Rs. 10,000 for a memorial to Col. Keatinge, would have done well if he had applied the money to the improvement of water supply and drainage instead of laying it out for a Hall. Is it too late?

THE VICEREGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL reassembled yesterday. Dr. Thornton introdnced the British Burma Elephants Bill. Mr. Stokes introdnced the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill and moved that it be referred to Select Committee consisting of Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, Dr. Thornton, Mr. Cockerell and the mover. The two legal members Messrs. Paul and Evans ought to have been put upon this Committee. Mr. Stokes also presented the Select Committee's report on the Punjab and North-Western Provices and Oudh Ferries Bill and the report on the Bill to assimilate certain powers of Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY.

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice certain circumstances connected with the management of a ward's estate known as Toria Pergunna in the district of Gowalpara. May we venture to ask Sir Stuart Bayley to make enquiries on the following points? I. Under what circumstances was the ward Bamasundari Gupta, now deceased, led to adopt the present boy and what relationship does he bear to the manager? II. Was Bamasundari when she fell ill compelled to leave her house at Khegrabori and to come to Dhubri, and was she accommodated at a Court Chaprasi's house, and was she properly taken care of? III. Who was the purchaser of a share of the Toria Pergunna estate at an auction sale for default of revenue, what was the amount of the bid accepted, and were there others willing to make a higher bid? A telegram has since informed us that the sale was afterwards cancelled by Col. Keatinge. Why?

WE HAVE received a copy of a petition from certain inhabitants of Somrah and Bakipore in the district of Hooghly, who complain that though the Police under the orders of the Magistrate have more than once opened a public thoroughfare called Kamarparah road, obstructed by a termagant woman, she seems to obey no authority and has again closed the road. We could hardly conceive that a woman could so persistently defy law and authority. We hope Mr. Hime will personally enquire into the matter.

MADRAS seems to be in the throes of another Famine. The Madras Government has reported to the Government of India that the monsoon has been light and irregular, that prices are rising, and that distress must greatly increase unless good general rain comes in a fortnight. The Duke of Buckingham has recorded a minute showing that several large and useful works on or near the coast are ready for commencement. The Government of India has sanctioned the commencement of the Canal work and ordered twelve engineers to proceed at once to Madras. The Secretary of State has been asked to

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warn fifty Junior Engineers on furlough to be ready to come out to famine work in case need arises. If another Famine breaks out in Madras it will be a very sad affair. An Indian Famine not unusually proves a three years calamity.

RAIN HAS at last fallen in several parts of the country. We give the following telegram from the Meteorological Reporter :

Thursday 10 morning Barometer falling except in Assam, Behar. Fall greatest in Bombay coast where eight hundredths. Temperature generally diminishing. Humidity increasing. sky overcast, greater part in India. Rainfall increasing. Light showers in Assam, South Bengal and Behar. Fair rain Northern Bengal twenty three tenths. Purneah slight showers. North Western Provinces except Bareilly where six inches. Continuous rain in Bombay gave seven inches. Fair rain Central Provinces fourteen tenths. In Khandwa and Nagpore moderate rain ; Madras where twelve tenths.

BABOO JADUB KRISHNA SIRKAR who was in charge of the Mayo Hospital for three years has been placed in charge of the Chitpore Dispensary. As we hear good accounts of this Assistant Surgeon we hope his appointment will be made *pucka*.

THE EXTENSION LINE of the Northern Bengal State Railway from Julpigori to Siligori, which was seriously damaged by the late rains, has been quickly repaired, and is open again for traffic.

HORROR OF HORRORS ! On Thursday last in Mirzapore Street in this town Munshi Mahomed Hosain, a young man of about twenty-five years, murdered in cold blood his mother, sister, and a neighbour's child who accidentally met him, and, upon the appearance of the Police, plunged the knife, which he held in his hand, into his own throat in their presence, and immediately expired. His wife saved herself by a timely flight.

IT IS reported that Lord Beaconsfield addressed the Congress in English, because his enemies say he cannot speak French !

OUR CIVILIZATION is increasing. An Adultery Case has been instituted in the Police of Court Calcutta by a Hindu gentleman of good position—a Munsif lately employed in Sylhet. The accused, who is an attorney of the High Court, is charged with living with the daughter of his own sister ! Both parties are well connected. The complainant made most painful disclosures, and as he was afraid that the defendant might abscond he applied to the Magistrate for a warrant, but strange to say Mr. Ameer Ali took time till Tuesday next to pass orders.

THE MEHERPORE Murder case came to an end this evening. As soon as the prosecution concluded, the presiding Judge remarked that there was no case against the prisoner, and the Jury acquitted him. We expected this result when the case was allowed to rust for fourteen months. We may have to say something on this case hearafter.

THE DEATHS in Calcutta during the week ending the 29th June last numbered 253, of which 76 were from fever, 44 from small-pox, 17 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 9 from cholera, 18 from tetanuns, and the rest from other causes : 15 children were still-born and seven persons died from old age. There was no death either from fever, cholera, or small-pox among the non-Asiatic and mixed races. So small-pox is not yet stamped out.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. Administration Report on the Jails of Bengal for 1877. 2. Ancient Aryan Civilization in India in the age of the Vedas, being the substance of a Lecture originally delivered before the Hare Association in April 1877. 3. Journal of the National Indian Association in aid of Social Progress in India. 4. Messrs. Warner and Son's catalogue of Hydranlic and Sanitary Engines brass and copper tools &c., of London, 1878. 5. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co's Literary Circular. 6. Annual Report of the District Charitable Society for 1877. 7. Trade and Navigation Returns for May 1877. 8. Returns of Vaccination, N. W. P. for the season of 1877-78.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

Berlin, 28th June.—The Congress has recognised Servian, independence, and authorised the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is expected that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries will protest against this, unless the duration of occupation is fixed. Eastern Roumelia will be autonomous, with a Representative assembly, and a Christian Governor, who will be nominated by the Porte, and be approved of by the Powers.

1st.—The Powers are urging on Turkey the acceptance of the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Austria is massing troops on the frontier, which it is expected they will cross this week. The Congress will hear the Roumanians today.

1st.—Since the Porte continues to raise objections to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Austrian troops Austria will occupy those provinces under sanction from the Powers. The Congress held a long sitting to-day and gave Antivari to Montenegro. The Bessarabian question is also settled. Russia receives that portion from the River Kilit to the Pruth, whilst Roumania gets from the vicinity of Silistria to Mangalia. At Saturdays sitting the Greek delegate read a memorandum, demanding a moderate extension of the frontier. The rumoured intention of Prince Gortschakoff to withdraw from the Congress entirely is unconfirmed. He still attends the sittings.

3rd.—The Congress yesterday discussed the navigation of the Danube, and broached the question of indemnity.

4*th*.—The Turks demand that there shall be a limit as regards the duration strength, and area of the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The demand will probably be unheeded. The Congress did not sit yesterday.

4*th*.—At the Congress to-day the Turks accepted in principle the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The details will be settled by Turkey and Austria. The navigation of the Danube is to be opened to the commerce of all nations. As regards the indemnity, it will not touch the revenues already hypothecated and will not be paid in land. The preliminary negotiations concerning Batoum were commenced. On this question difficulty is expected.

4*th*.—The Under-Secretary for India, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that Lord Cranbrook concurred in the report of the Select Committee of enquiry on arrears of Ordnance Majors, and has telegraphed to the Viceroy to settle the officers' claims with all possible despatch.

London, 29th June.—The British Government is going to prosecute the Foreign Office clerk who divulged the Anglo Russian agreement.

3rd.—The London papers strongly oppose the cession of Batoum to Russia.

3rd.—The Channel Squadron has left Suda Bay under sealed orders. The eight sailing transports which have been ordered from Malta to England to be discharged.

3rd—The Pan-Anglican Synod met at Lambeth Palace to-day. One hundred prelates were present, including the Bishops of Bombay. Madras, and Colombo

5*th*.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the Supplementary Financial Statement would be presented in a fortnight.

Constantinople, 3rd July.—General Todleben is preparing to withdraw his forces to Adrianople in three columns.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, to-morrow Evening at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Action of Electric Currents upon each other.

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the 11*th Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Rectilinear or Plane Polarisation.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on *Saturday* the 13*th Inst.* at 4 P. M.

Subject: Composition and properties of Water.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1878.

INDIA IN ENGLAND.

THANKS to Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Fawcett, Sir George Campbell, Mr. O'Donnell, Lord Lytton and the Government of India generally, for the prominent attention which Indian affairs are now attracting in England. Thanks to Lord Beaconsfield, because his fertile brain conceived the brilliant idea of drawing the native military forces of India to fight Russia in Europe. Here was a resource at the disposal of England, which did not strike any other English statesman. Lord Beaconsfield saw that the British army of the United Kingdom was in point of numbers not equal to the military strength of Russia. But the Queen's dominions extend over all parts of the world—in her empire the sun never sets—nearly one-fourth of the population of the world acknowledges her sway, and was it to be said that she had not a sufficiency of men to defend her power if the worst came to the worst ? The very thought was cowardly. And so Lord Beaconsfield resolved to move Indian troops to Malta. By doing this he shewed the world that he had tapped a perennial spring. As was justly observed in Parliament if he could move seven thousand troops to-day, he might move seventy thousand to-morrow, aye seven hundred thousands another day. India was inhabited by a large mass of warlike people, who would be too glad to shew their valour in the service of England in any part of the world. It was only a question of money ; if England could pay, India was ready to send out her men, and England has an exhaustless treasury. Lord Beaconsfield's policy has had a double effect. It has not only demonstrated the military strength and resources of England but has supplied a new motive to Indian loyalty. And the indirect gain to India has been increased attention to Indian affairs. Thanks to Mr. Gladstone, because in his controversy with his political opponents he has given prominence to India in connection with the expeditionary force to Malta. Ordinarily it was difficult to enlist his sympathy on an Indian question, but party spirit has been roused, and although he does not take the same view that Lord Beaconsfield does of the policy of employing Indian troops in a European war, he wields a powerful voice, and when he calls attention to the abuses of Indian administration, India is sure to gain. His recent article in the *Nineteenth Century* we we are convinced is calculated to do India great good. They are no common words to which Mr. Gladstone gives utterance. He says, "the dominion of a nation over another and especially a distant nation, with blood, language, history, and religion of its own, is not abstractedly desirable. It is a deviation from the natural order, and it is marked with an exceptional, perhaps a provisional, character. One scale is heavily weighted with motives adverse to the connection. Our object, if we are wise, should be to lay in the other scale not a sword of Brennus, but every material and every moral document we can devise ; and with these a graciousness of procedure, which shall wipe away the sense of subordination, and leave free scope for the development of the conviction of a common interest. It is not enough, that these scales should hang evenly balanced. As long as they so hang, we remain upon the edge of danger. We ought to have a large reserve of good to our credit against contingencies, if we desire to rest secure in our guardianship of India." And when Mr. Gladstone thus speaks out, we may rest assured that he does not mean that his words should remain idle, empty or barren. A few words from him have been sufficient to strangle the Vernacular Press Act. If Mr. Gladstone follows up his Indian programme, and both in and out of Parliament agitates Indian matters in his vigorous style, we have ample cause to be grateful to him. India has no party, no spokesmen, no leader in England, but if Mr. Gladstone lends his voice to her dumb millions they are sure to obtain a hearing in the imperial legislature. He has been always a champion of oppressed nationalities, and if the Russo-Turkish war leaves no other abiding result than the adhesion of Mr. Gladstone to the cause of India, the lovers of humanity will have ample reason for gratulation. Thanks to Mr. Fawcett, that sightless champion of India. Since he has entered Parliament he has always taken a most lively interest in India. It would not be inappropriate to call him "the Hon'ble Member for Hackney and India." He is ever ready to take up an Indian question, particularly when it affects the pockets of the poor people of India. It was owing to his advocacy the late Indian Finance Committee was appointed. The appointment of the present Public Works Committee is also due to him. Thanks to Sir George Campbell, who, though voted a bore in the House of Commons, is very useful to India. He has great knowledge of Indian matters, and although he has a bad voice and worse manner, still the House is not unwilling to hear him on Indian questions. It is only when he goes out of his legitimate province and talks of imperial politics, the House gets impatient Sir George in India was a despot, Sir George in England is a liberal. As an Indian administrator he used to carry things with a high hand, and would not listen to advice or public remonstrances, but as an imperial senator he shews great breadth of mind and a wholesome regard for public opinion. He now thinks better, more kindly and justly of the people, whom he had made impatient of his rule by his arbitrary and self-willed actions, and they feel all the more grateful to him. The questions he puts to the House are generally pertinent and beneficial to India. Thanks to Mr. O'Donnell, the rising leader of the Home Rule Party. The name of this gentleman was unknown to us till we saw from his utterances in Parliament regarding India that he deeply sympathized with us, and evinced a genuine interest in our welfare. Neither he nor his party are popular in the House. Their views on Irish politics do not commend themselves to Englishmen, who have a traditional hatred of the Irish Party. Though numerically weak, they consider themselves strong in the righteousness of their cause, and as constitutionalists they take every advantage of legal and constitutional forms to enforce their views upon Parliament. Hence they are called obstructives ; hence they are in ill-odour with Englishmen. In India some of our contem-

poraries seem to think that we are mistaken in putting our faith in Mr. O'Donnell. They tell us that he cares as much for India as he does for Timbuctoo, that he makes a parade of his Indian sympathy for his own selfish ends, and that his advocacy will damage our cause. We are much obliged to our contemporaries for their friendly advice, but may we ask them what can Mr. O'Donnell gain personally by advocating the Indian cause? The Indians have no voice in Parliament, and so they cannot strengthen his party. He does not want money, and the Indians are shrewd enough to understand that paid advocacy is neither sincere nor effective. On the other hand he takes up questions, which other M. Ps. hesitate to notice, and is thus the means of ventilating Indian grievances in the House. It was he who first questioned the Under-Secretary of State about the Vernacular Press Act and drew forth Mr. Gladstone. His cry was taken up by the English Press, and has led the Secretary of State to practically undo the Act of the Government of India. He it is, who keeps up a constant running fire upon the India Office regarding all manner of Indian questions, a sort of Joe Hume, and the effect of his microscopic criticisms cannot but be good. He it was who compelled the Under-Secretary of State to acknowledge that the Government of India will not interfere with the armies of the Native Princes. When Mr. Fawcett or Sir George Campbell speaks about India, they represent themselves; they may obtain support, but they have no party to back them; whereas Mr. O'Donnell has at least 70 Home Rulers at his back, and whenever he threatens a division in the House he can at least command a house of about 150 men. Surely a member, who unsolicited has espoused the Indian cause, and has such a strength behind, deserves a grateful recognition from us. And lastly, thanks to Lord Lytton and the Government of India generally. Although they did not mean it, their imperial programme has attracted the attention of England. The English public now feel that there is a new policy at work in India not quite in consonance with the teachings and traditions of England. English statesmen and politicians are made of a different mould from those whom Lord Lytton saw on the continent, and whose spirit his Lordship seems to have, to a certain extent, though perhaps unconsciously, imbibed. England is the land of freedom, and she wishes that those, who are under her sway, should taste the sweets of that freedom. She admits that the Government of India must in theory be despotic, but it should be a despotism tempered by public opinion. In the past even under the despotic rule of the East India Company there was a spirit of constitutionalism, which was inseparable from English rule. It was in that spirit the Code of Cornwallis Regulations was conceived. In the eye of the law all were declared equal, the executive were subordinated to the judiciary, the Government to the supreme interests of the people. This is the pith and marrow of the Regulation system. But a change has of late come over the spirit of Indian administration. Personal rule has taken the place of Regulation rule, discretionary Government that of the Reign of Law, and the new spirit has culminated in the Vernacular Press Act. The howl of discontent, which this change of policy has raised in India, has reached England, and the great British nation has been roused and begins to shake its head that things cannot be all right in India. The very name of imperialism is distasteful to the constitutional mind of England, and as the banner of imperialism has been unfurled in India, thinking men in England are beginning to enquire what can it be. All this we say bodes good to India. The more closely is India brought to England in thought and feeling, the better for both. Mr. Gladstone says, "we have no partnership with India, we have only a mastery over her." Now, we ask, why should this be? Why should not India like the colonies be admitted into a partnership in that grand joint stock concern of intellectual, moral, and political freedom, which the British Power represents? Providence has connected India with England in a golden chain; we do not want severance. We are quite content with English rule; we only wish and pray that England will govern India in the same spirit in which she governs herself and her colonies. We may differ in language, habits, customs and religion, but we have inherited the common attributes of humanity, and if Englishmen grant that we are fellow-men, why should we not be treated as fellow-subjects of the British Crown? It is English education and culture, which have revived India, why should not English principles of Government raise her to that high platform of political thought and feeling, which it is England's boast to occupy? England is rich but India is poor; is that a reason that there can be no partnership between the two? England is strong but India is weak; is that a reason that there can be no partnership between the two? England is far advanced but India is backward, and is that a reason that there can be no partnership between the two? England is Christian, but India is primeval in its faith; is that a reason that there can be no partnership between the two? England is bold but India is timid; is that a reason that there can be no partnership between the two? No! no! we cannot believe that England would oppose the laws of nature, the laws of humanity, in her treatment of India. Because all the fingers of the hand are not equal, no one thinks of cutting off the little fingers. Because all the children are not of the same age, attainments, and character, no parents would discard the younger children. The subjects of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress form one grand joint undivided family, and all ought to have a place in the same family group, in the same brotherhood, in the same partnership. If England will eschew the feeling that she has only a mastery over India, she will not only exalt the millions which a beneficent Providence has entrusted to her care, but will exalt herself.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

THE agitation against the Vernacular Press Act has not been without effect. Evidently with a view to anticipate Mr. Gladstone the Secretary of State has sent out a despatch to the Government of India on the subject. The despatch has been published both in London and Simla; the *Gazette of India*, which contains it, will come to hand in a day or two, but in the meantime we have received two telegrams. The London telegram is as follows:

London, July 2.—A despatch of Lord Cranbrook, reviewing a communication from the Indian Government on the Vernacular Press Act, has been published. In it he strongly shares the Viceroy's regret at the necessity for the Act, but says that a strong case has been established by the intolerable language of a portion of the Press. In carrying out the new Act, bonds should be taken from printers as security for good behaviour according to the circumstances of the paper. There is no reason to discourage criticism of officials and Government measures, if honest. His Lordship hopes the Vernacular Press will expose and examine genuine grievances instead of publishing mere general denunciations, and directs that the publisher's responsibility should correspond to English law. The despatch concludes by saying that it is inexpedient to enforce the clauses encouraging papers to submit proofs for revision, because it would be difficult to execute it owing to the variety of languages, and might give rise to great abuses: therefore he prefers a mitigation.

The telegram from the Press Commissioner runs as under:

A despatch of the Secretary of State regarding the Vernacular Press Act, dated May 31st, will be published in the next *Gazette of India*. The despatch recites the objects and reasons of the Act; observes that the first part is on the lines of the Irish Peace Preservation Act; heartily shares in the regret expressed by the Viceroy and his Council, that it was necessary to restrict the freedom of the press, and thus withdraw one of those British institutions the introduction of which by the Government has conferred such benefit on India. But the Act was passed with the unanimous assent of the Legislative Council, including the native members, after much deliberation, in the Executive Council, and much confidential correspondence with the Local Governments. Lord Cranbrook is bound to say that a strong case was made out for the further control of the Vernacular newspapers. He recites with approval the statement of the journalistic law of England, as explained in the Council. He refers to the Penal Code provisions and to the numerous authorities who have considered that a criminal prosecution against newspapers which perhaps err from folly and braggadocio, is undesirable and unnecessary, and inclines to the view that a system of pecuniary penalties is better. Lord Cranbrook, however, entertains grave doubts about the working of section 5 of Act IX of 1877, which provides for proofs being submitted, when the Editor so desires, to an official censor; he notices that this provision was entered in order to enable Editors, who are often men of small means, to guard themselves from large pecuniary liabilities, but he desires nevertheless that this part of the scheme be suspended, he considers that the provisions of the Penal Code should be adhered to and that honest criticism of Government measures should be in no wise discouraged; for he, in common with the Viceroy, attaches importance to such criticism. He trusts that officials, whether European or Native, will not exhibit too great sensitiveness even to unreasonable blame. Lord Cranbrook concludes by expressing confidence that the measure will lead Vernacular writers to examine genuine grievances rather than indulge in unneces sary denunciation. Subject to these remarks he leaves the Act to its operation.

We do not clearly understand from the telegrams the drift of the despatch, but if we are not mistaken, the principle of the Act will undergo a radical change. It could not of course be expected that the Secretary of State would unceremoniously throw the Government of India overboard; he has therefore approached the subject in the usual periphrastic style of diplomacy. He admits as every one with an imbiassed mind does that the tone of a "portion of the Vernacular Press" is bad, and therefore regrets the necessity for legislation on the subject. He lays much stress upon the unanimous assent of the Council to the Act, forgetting that the whole thing was done under high pressure. No time was allowed to the members to think over such a vitally important question. Even the draft bill was not circulated until a few hours of the sitting of the Council, and many of the members had hardly time to read the Bill. Then the Viceroy declared that it was emergent political considerations, which had led to the introduction of the measure, and as His Excellency was responsible for the peace and good government of the country the members felt that they were in duty beyond to support him. A bill passed under such circumstances was properly speaking a measure passed under high pressure, and it is not therefore fair to lay stress upon the "unanimous" assent of the Council. Lord Cranbrook we are told says that "a strong case was made out for the further control of the Vernacular newspapers." But we are not informed whether His Lordship approves of the form in which that control is sought to be exercised. The real question at issue is whether the conduct of the Vernacular papers has been such as to justify the repressive law under comment. It is said that "Lord Cranbrook refers to the Penal Code provisions and to the numerous authorities who have considered that a criminal prosecution against newspapers which perhaps err from folly and braggadocio, is undesirable and unnecessary, and inclines to the view that a system of pecuniary penalties is better." But be that as it may, His Lordship does after all prefer prosecution to punishment by the fiat of the executive authority. For it is added:

But he desires nevertheless that this part of the scheme be suspended, he considers that the provisions of the Penal Code should be adhered to, and that honest criticism of Government measures should be in no wise discouraged; for he, in common with the Viceroy, attaches importance to such criticism.

The italics are ours. Mark the words, "he considers that the provisions of the Penal Code should be adhered to." If this means anything, it means that the ordinary law should be followed, and that the exceptional procedure adopted in the obnoxious Act should be abandoned. This is also clear from the London telegram. It says, "there is no reason to discourage criticism of official and Government measures, if honest. His Lordship hopes the Vernacular Press will expose and examine genuine grievances, instead of publishing mere general denunciations, and directs that *the publisher's responsibility should correspond to English law.*"

Reading the telegrams between the lines we come to the conclusion that the Secretary of State recommends a radical change in the Vernacular Press Act. His Lordship seems to hold that the existing law is strong enough for the repression of seditious writings, and that it ought to be adhered to. No case has been made out that the law has proved insufficient. No prosecution has been instituted, the result of which shewed that it was not sufficient to check the seditious writers of the Vernacular Press. Why then gag the whole Press? The Secretary of State, however, insists upon bail-bonds. This is a small matter. Already under the law a publisher is required to take out a license, and Lord Cranbrook would add to it a bail-bond. In our opinion this is superfluous. Once a license has been taken out by a publisher, he remains bound by it, and a bail-bond cannot enhance his responsibility. If the Secretary of State will not be satisfied without the bail-bond, let him have it. Possibly he recommends it by

way of sugaring the bitter pill, which he has prescribed for the Government of India. It is evident that the whole tenour and character of the Act are to be changed. The freedom of the Vernacular Press is to be left to the operation of the ordinary law of the land, and the new Act is to be amended accordingly. But the present Act could not be maintained even in the most shadowy form unless the clause for the bail-bond were retained, and hence we believe the necessity suggested for insisting upon it. To have bodily repealed the law would have been to offer a gross violence to the *amour propre* of the Government of India. It can now have the satisfaction, whatever it is, to say that the Act is not "repealed" but "amended." If the Government of India likes to enjoy this questionable satisfaction, by all means let it have that solace. But it has of its own accord suspended the clause about the bail-bond. It sees that the bond practically amounts to nothing, and it will be still more delusive, when the penalty in the bond under the instructions of the Secretary of State cannot be enforced by the executive authority. If a judicial trial be held under the Penal Code, the bail-bond will be quite innocuous. We will not say more on the subject till we see the despatch, which will reach us in the course of this week.

One word more. It affords us great pleasure to notice that the Secretary of State has yielded to public opinion. Were it not for the howl of indignation raised both in India and England, we doubt whether the fetters put upon the Vernacular Press would have been taken off. The Indian Press is greatly indebted to Mr. O'Donnell for first lifting his voice against this measure of the Government of India, and above all to Mr. Gladstone, whose name is a tower of strength. It was in a lucky moment the ex-Premier was solicited to present and support the Indian petitions against the Act. The suggestion was made in Calcutta and was warmly seconded in Bombay. In order to take the wind out of his sails it is evident the Secretary of State has sent out the despatch under notice, but whatever his motive we thank Lord Cranbrook for his prompt action. Immediately after the Act was passed it was paraded that the Secretary of State had given his assent to it. We do not know what Lord Salisbury would have done if he had remained at the India Office, but within two months of his accession Lord Cranbrook has undone the action of his predecessor in the interest of liberty of thought and speech. All honor therefore to Lord Cranbrook!

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

WE ARE glad to observe that the *Indian Daily News* champions Mr. Metcalfe, Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality. We always wish to see every question discussed on both sides. We have no prejudice against Mr. Metcalfe; if any thing we were biassed in his favour, for when he undertook to drive the municipal coach he declared that he was pledged to give a fair trial to the elective system, and that he would do his best to conform to the Constitution. We believe he was sincere in what he had then said, and the Commissioners felt encouraged by his programme. They were for the most part new men; they were not wedded to the traditions of the past; they were actuated by a single motive, which was to do their duty, and to shew by their acts that they were not unworthy of the confidence, which the legislature and the rate-payers had reposed in them. They were not without misgivings that perhaps they would not receive fair play at the hands of Sir Stuart Hogg, who was notoriously opposed to the new system, who was identified with the past, and who, though very efficient, was somewhat high-handed and hectoring in his doings. Sir Stuart was himself fully alive to his anomalous position, and he tendered his resignation into the hands of Sir Richard Temple the moment the new Municipal Act was passed, saying that the public would have confidence if the new system were worked by a new man; but Sir Richard would not, and did not, accept his resignation. Sir Stuart's health, however, soon after gave way, and he took leave. Mr. Metcalfe came in quite unfettered. The system was new, he was new to the office, and the Commissioners were new, and he was thus in a fair position to stamp his mind upon the administration of the town. But what is the result? He has been in office for about a year and three quarters, and at the end of this sufficiently long trial we are exceedingly sorry to say we find the Municipality in a complete mess. The first year we may say was the year of apprenticeship for both the Chairman and the Commissioners. They both wanted knowledge, and pursued it under difficulties, for whilst learning to disentangle the threads of business they must at the same time go on weaving the woof. But they cannot be always in a *status pupillari*; if they are not yet masters of their situation, they will never be so. At the outset the Commissioners placed themselves entirely in the hands of their Chairman; but when they find that he is not a safe steersman, ought they to be blamed if they think for themselves and look ahead? They are the constituted guardians of the town; they are responsible for the good management of the funds entrusted to their care; if they from personal considerations should shut their eyes, would they be true to themselves and their constituents, and would the latter spare them? We will not notice smaller things, but mention some of the most important matters. We will begin with the Night-soil imbroglio. The *Indian Daily News* says, "in the case of the present Chairman of the Municipality, it must not be forgotten that he took over matters from his predecessor, not perhaps as he would have *desired* to find them, but *as* he found them; and that much of the debt, for instance, and difficulty (notably in the Collector's department), was none of Mr. Metcalfe's own *creating*; yet he has to bear the brunt of it." But the Night-soil imbroglio was Mr. Metcalfe's own *creating*. He did not in the remotest decree consult the Commissioners or the Conservancy Committee about it. One fine morning they rose and heard that the mehters had struck in a body and would not work. It would be a wearisome tale to go into the history of this unfortunate affair, but it is well known that for six weeks the town was in a sad plight—almost every house was a cesspool! The Commissioners then felt that they would be wanting in their duty if they did not raise their voice, so they convened a special general meeting, appointed a special Committee to advise the Chairman in making necessary arrangements, and voted a grant of Rs. 10,000 to cover preliminary expenses. The Committee met once, but they were not since summoned for nearly eight months, and the Chairman took upon himself the whole responsibility of maturing the system and spending the money. When the Committee asked him to hold a meeting, his reply was that he had been preparing his note. In the meantime he commenced to collect the night-soil fees, though it was disputed whether the scale had been sanctioned by the Commissioners or not—such was his method of conducting business. But he did not stick to the scale supposed to have been sanctioned by the Commissioners. He improvised a scale of his own, and made the people pay, though in fact the whole of his collections was illegal. The Commissioners had voted a provisional grant of Rs. 10,000, but he expended upon the Night-soil department more than two lacs of rupees without authority. He had promised a revenue of three lacs of rupees annually from the night-soil work, but according to his own figures the income would not be half. The Committee then pressed him to hold a meeting, and they were summoned in November last; they found that the system, which was the Chairman's own *creating*, was a mistake, that he had burdened the municipality with a deficit of about a lac and a half, that the establishment had been entertained on a most extravagant scale, and that the rates of fees fixed, though illegally, would be quite insufficient to meet the expenditure. They could not retreat from the position into which they had been driven by the Chairman; they could not alter the system, for to do so would be to force another imbroglio; they therefore confined themselves to the financial part of the scheme. They reduced the establishment, not without great struggle and obloquy, from, Rs. 250,000, the Chairman's estimate, to Rs. 180,000; they revised the scale of fees in order to make the two ends meet, though they were fully aware that it would press hard upon the rate-payers; and raised the house-rate by two per cent. to cover the deficit.

Take next the tank question. A great hue and cry was raised by the Health-Officer about foul tanks breeding cholera, and arbitrary measures were taken to fill up a number of tanks. The Commissioners had not been consulted in the matter, and they protested. The Chairman then himself proposed a Tank Committee, and laid down a procedure for their operations. But in practical working both the Tank Committee and the procedure were ignored; in the meantime municipal fund was applied to the clearing of private property. The Commissioners again protested, and the Chairman promised to consult them before taking action. But again and again were notices issued upon the tank proprietors to fill up the tanks wholesale without consulting the Tank Committee. In this way the Health-Department took in hand so many tanks that it had not materials sufficient to fill up one-tenth of them. The result is that several parts of the town, where there are these partially filled up tanks, are in a most deplorable condition. The remedy has proved worse than the disease. Houses in the neighbourhood of some of these tanks have become hospitals. Surely this nuisance was not a legacy left by Sir Stuart Hogg. We had the other day the Shuriff Duftry's Lane case. In this matter the Commissioners, as usual, were not consulted by the Chairman; they knew nothing about it till they saw the Police report, but they have had to pay the costs of the defence and of the removal of the nuisance. Was not this business Mr. Metcalfe's *own creating*? Take again the confusion prevailing in the assessment and collection of what is called the tenant-rate bills. In many cases both landlord and tenant have been made to pay for the same lands and huts, and there have been constant dispute and misunderstanding between them. The same confusion marks the collection of the night-soil fees, which are now entered in the occupier's rate-bill. Now, there are diverse objections taken to the night-soil fees. In the first place, a man has no privy in his house, but the Chairman would make him pay whether he has the privy or not, though this is quite contrary to law. In the second place, a house connected with the sewer is not liable to the fee, and where this is the case, the bill is returned, but the other rates being entered in the same bill, the whole amount remains uncollected. In the third place in many cases the owners of houses pay the occupier's rates under special arrangements, but not the night-soil fee, which is a payment for service rendered; but this fee being entered in one bill, the other rates are not paid. Are not these difficulties Mr. Metcalfe's own *creating*?

We next turn to the Collectors' department. The reader is already familiar with the scandals of this department. The *Indian Daily News* says that they were not of Mr. Metcalfe's *creating*, because the present system had been introduced by his predecessor. True, but were not the defects of the present system pressed upon his attention more than once, and did he not deprecate any change? Besides, the heavy deficiency in the collections is due to other causes than the system. Was it not Mr. Metcalfe, who introduced the present form of bills, which were not made over to the collecting sircars till the latter end of May, and what is the result?—Why, not one-third of the demand of the quarter has been collected during the quarter! In the meantime the Municipality is plunged into debt and deficit. Was not this difficulty Mr. Metcalfe's own *creating*? [Again, such is the supervision exercised over the collecting department that the great defalcation case of the other day was first brought to the notice of the Chairman by a Commissioner on private information!

Mr. Metcalfe is justly anxious to keep the accounts in good order, but what is his method of business? He proposed that the cash account and the journal should be mixed up, that the transfer receipts should be made simultaneously with the issue of articles from the stores by requiring the contractors to make daily a separate bill for each article, and that a double credit of

stores supplied to the Entally workshop should be made. In this way work was multiplied to the harassment of the accounts and store departments, and confusion was worse confounded. It was on strong remonstrances from the auditors that this *golmal* was remedied. And knowing these facts how can we agree with our contemporary that these difficulties were not Mr. Metcalfe's own *creating*? Then, owing to his ill-judged action, the Municipal revenue has suffered. The Municipal latrines used to be leased out and to fetch a good revenue before; but on the introduction of the night-soil system he let them free, and now he cannot find persons to take the leases! The Municipality used to derive a substantial revenue from the removal of business refuse, but it has fallen off, because a sapient Honorary Magistrate held that prosecutions for default would not lie under the bye-laws, which in his opinion had ceased to have the force of law. The Chairman did not agree with the Honorary Magistrate; but it did not strike him that as the decision affected the revenue, either the matter should have been brought before the High Court, or referred to a full bench of Honorary Magistrates for decision. Was not this loss of revenue his own *creating*? Then the market revenue has falling-off; a Commissioner forced an enquiry into it. We will not anticipate the Committee of Enquiry, but there is the fact that while the prices are high, the municipal receipts are low. Lately the Chairman proposed to convert the Dhurmtollah market into a hay market; the Commissioners opposed the scheme on the ground that the stowage of hay might cause fire and endanger the property in the neighbourhood; but in anticipation of the orders of the Commissioners he brought hay-men from private godowns and packed them in the Dhurmtollah market and went to the expense of making water arrangements to prevent fire, but now that the Commissioners have disallowed his proposal, he is removing the hay men, who were unnecessarily put to inconvenience and expense. Was not this difficulty his own *creating*? And lastly we have had repeated instances of expenditure of money without the authority of the Commissioners. Only six months ago the Commissioners raised the house-rate by 2 per cent. in order to cover the deficit caused by the Chairman, and yet he has expended again Rs. 114,000 in excess of the Budget without sanction. There is still more to pay. There is a balance of about Rs. 30,000 disbursed by the Chairman without the authority of the Commissioners on account of night-soil depots. We ask again, are not these difficulties his *own creating?*

Under the circumstances were not the Commissioners justified in crying, complaining, and protesting? The Chairman generally shews admirable temper in meeting; he is gentlemanly and agreeable in private life though we hear different accounts of his relations with his subordinates; but when protests in certain matters were made the other day, what did he say?—he said "there is a limit to forbearance"—may we ask on which side? The *Indian Daily News* remarks:

"We have seen with regret the tendency of late, and which seems to be on the increase, to condemn the Chairman, almost personally for all the faults brought to light. His very urbanity in meeting attacks seems rather to encourage additional personal attack; and we venture to express an opinion that some of the speakers of late, at the Municipal meetings, have gone beyond not only what was due to the Chairman, but also beyond the legitimate freedom of expression of even independent members at a public meeting. In the report published in Monday's paper, for instance, we find that a speaker uses these words:—"It was the Executive who had impoverished the Municipality;" while the term "scandalous," used in the sense it was at a previous meeting, can hardly, we submit, be approved of, in connection with the inference that the Executive was directly responsible for the scandal. That a scandal has been discovered, and should be exposed, is true; but it must be borne in mind that the Chairman it was who brought this scandal prominently forward by instituting a prosecution against the parties concerned. Nothing would have been easier for Mr. Metcalfe than to have settled the matter departmentally, and we are bold to affirm that his predecessor would have thought twice before he brought boldly upon himself and his administration, by a public prosecution against the offending party, the vials of wrath of the assembled commissioners, and the always unthinking and too hasty condemnation of the public, upon facts as they necessarily became revealed.

We hope the facts we have given above will satisfy our contemporary whether the situation in which the Municipality has been placed is Mr. Metcalfe's *own creating* or not, whether he has taken the Commissioners into confidence, for which the writer gives him credit, and whether the Commissioners have not been constrained to speak out at last, because, to quote the Chairman "there is a limit to forbearance." The Chairman took charge of the Municipality with a declaration that he would give the elective system a fair trial, but has not the tendency of his actions been to bring it into discredit and to plunge the town into serious complications? The Commissioners it is true wield the power of the purse, but the reality of that power is demonstrated when we see that the Chairman has, within the last year and a half, spent about four lacs of rupees without their authority, and thus involved the Municipality in debt and deficit. Our contemporary seems to regret that the Commissioners give publicity to what they think about the management of the Municipality—he says "with the committees which exist, the opportunity is afforded of full enquiry into, and comment upon many matters, which would better be discussed (preliminarily, at any rate,) so far, in private, in preference to being too suddenly dragged before public criticism." This is actually done. A Town Council has, without the sanction of law, been appointed to accomodate the views of the Chairman, and in that Council the ordinary soiled linen is washed, but when evils in a public body come to an unmanagable head, publicity is the only remedy. Mr. Metcalfe doubtless means well, but good intentions cannot help the Municipality to paradise. We are, however, quite willing to let bye-gones be bye-gones, if we are assured that what has gone before will not occur again.

THE TRANSFER OF OCCUPANCY RIGHT.

V.

WE hope we have given abundant evidence to shew that the occupancy right is not transferable. As a Full Bench of the High Court, (*Ajoodhya Persad.* T. W. R. 528. F. B.) holds; "a right of occupancy is an hereditary right but it is not necessarily a transferable right. It was not the intention of the legislature when passing Act X of 1859 to alter the nature of the jote and convert a non-transferable jote into a transferable one merely because a ryot had held it for twelve years and thereby acquired a right of occupancy." Such being the case, the question is whether it would be good policy to recognize the transferability of the occupancy right. This question ought to be considered from both the ryot's and zemindar's points of view. In making the proposal under notice the Lieutenant Governor remarks that "he can imagine nothing so calculated to improve the system of cultivation and the value of an estate, as permanency and security of the ryot's tenure." This is quite true. But is not the occupancy tenure secure under the existing law? So far as we understand the law, a ryot, who has acquired a right of occupancy, cannot be ousted from his tenure so long as he pays the rent to his landlord. The tenure will descend from generation to generation without let or hindrance. Even an auction purchaser cannot eject an occupancy ryot. Thus, an auction-purchaser of a mokuraree tenure cannot set aside right of occupancy existing from a period prior to the creation of such tenure (Gap No. W. R., Act X, III, Dabee Buggut *v.* Beechun Raoot; 19 W. R., 106 Bholanath Ghose *v.* Kedar Nath Banerjee). A purchaser at sale under Act VIII of 1865 is not entitled to eject occupancy ryots (13 W. R., 410, Nil Madhub Kurmokar *v.* Shiboo Paul; 15 W. R., 234, Raj Kessen Mookerjee *v.* Dusoruth Sootrodhur: 22 W. R., 133, Emamali Mestoroy *v.* Atorali Khan) So also an auction-purchaser, under Regulation XIX of 1793, can only terminate a lease whereby no right of occupancy had been acquired by the ryot (20 W. R., 341, Nidheeram Bose *v.* Ram Dass Sen). An auction-purchaser at a sale for arrears of Government revenue cannot eject a ryot having a right of occupancy. (Proviso, section 37, Act XI of 1859.) It is thus clear that as regards the first point raised by the Lieutenant Governor it is fully met by the existing law. The tenure being a heritable one is permanent, and not being liable to cancelment so long as the rent is paid it is secure. These two conditions are thus fulfilled by the existing law. It is, therefore, quite gratuitous for his Honor to say that "the zemindars fully appreciate the value of security of their own tenure, and justly attribute to it the most beneficial results, but appear to be unable to see the advantage of extending it to the lower grades of holding." Then the Lieutenant Governor remarks that "if the transferability of the occupancy tenure be recognized, the transfer would carry with it all the liabilities and incidents of the occupancy tenure." In other words the tenure would be subject to the same law of enhancement as now. The real object of the Lieutenant Governor is not then to give permanency and security to the occupancy tenure, which is already secured, but to raise its market value. But will it be wise in the interests of the ryot and the zemindar to concede this right to the occupancy tenant? In many districts indebtedness is the normal condition of the ryot, and once the transferability of the tenure is declared, it will be liable to sale in execution of decree. And the immediate result of the proposal will we fear be that the lands will pass out of the hands of the cultivating class. But the Lieutenant Governor says, the legislature will guard against that evil. His Honor remarks: "If after securing transferability of tenure to the occupancy ryot (a right which he already possesses by custom in many parts of the country), provision were made in the law to prevent his converting himself into a mere middleman, and for strictly regulating the character of the subletting to which an occupancy ryot must limit himself, it would seem that a great improvement would be effected in the law of tenant-right in Bengal, such as would tend to raise the value of property, and increase the landlord's security of his rent." But is this practicable or desirable? The HighCourt has declared that it is not an essential condition of the tenure that the ryot should till the land with his own hands, but that he should be engaged in cultivation either directly or by hired laborers so that the incident of cultivation should be strictly maintained. But there are thousand of cases in which the occupancy ryot lets his lands to koorfa ryots, who pay the superior holder either in kind or in money. Neither does the koorfa ryot gain any right nor the occupancy ryot lose his right, and there are numerous decisions of the High Court on this point. We will quote a few. No right of occupancy is created by sub-lease from a ryot having a right of occupancy (7 W. R., 81, Moulovi Abdool Jubbar *v.* Kalee Churn Dutt). By holding for twelve years a ryot does not acquire a right of occupancy, if the land has been sublet to him for a term, or year by year, by ryot having a right of occupancy (15 W. R., 469, Nil Komul Sein *v.* Danesh Shaikh; Gap No. W. R., Act X, 72, Gilmore *v.* Surbessuree Dossee; 7 W. R., 114 Hureehur Mookerjee *v.* Jodoonath Ghose; 6 W. R., 168, Katel Gain *v.* Nadir Mistree; 18 W. R., 19, Ishen Chunder Ghose *v.* Hurish Chunder Benerjee; 19 W. R, 95, Unnopoorna Dassee *v.* Radha Mohun Pattro). A ryot with a right of occupancy does not, by subletting his land, lose his right, nor does the sub-lessee thereby gain the right (9 W. R., 344, Kaleekishore Chatterjee *v.* Ram Churn Shaha).

Thus a ryot, who acquires the occupancy right by cultivation, may become a middleman, and this is in accordance with the natural law of progress. Surely the Lieutenant Governor does not mean that a cultivator shall always remain a cultivator, that there shall be no progress for him, that he shall forfeit his right the moment he raises his head, and becomes independent of cultivation. What are your jotedars? Some of them are owners of hundreds of biggas of land, aye, small talookdars; they have acquired the right of occupancy, and having improved their condition have practically become small talookdars. To snatch away from them the occupancy right would be to confiscate their property. We cannot believe that His Honor would be a party to any such monstrous legislation. But how would he reconcile his proposal that if the transferability of the occupancy right be recognized, then provision will be made in the law to prevent the ryot from converting himself into a middleman? Then,

again, if this condition were imposed, how could it be enforced ? The zemindar must be always on the *qui vive* to find out that an occupancy ryot is engaged in cultivation either directly or by hired laborers, and to sue for the cancelment of the tenure the moment this condition is infringed. What would be the practical effect of this legislation—constant bickering and dispute between the landlord and tenant, bribing the zemindar's amla, and endless litigation ? Will it be wise to deliberately plunge the country into such a state of chronic disquiet and disturbance ? On the other hand once the transferability of the occupancy right is declared, there are harpies, who would be but too glad to take advantage of it, and buy out the tenants. We are aware that in some parts of the country the custom exists of bringing to sale an occupancy tenure. This custom of transfer originated from different causes. For the sake of a substantial consideration the zemindar has sanctioned a sale, and once a precedent is made it is cited in favour of similar transfers thereafter. Then the zemindar either to possess himself of the land or to punish a turbulent ryot has applied for sale, and the Courts without regard to law have granted the application. The mahajun too has in some cases obtained a sale, and the zemindar again has been coaxed into consent by the offer of a good consideration by the incoming tenant. Such is the origin of the custom, but it is not general, and as a proof of this position we may mention that the Government found it difficult to bring to sale the occupancy tenure to recover the famine advances. For our part we submit the best security of the ryot's tenure is its non-transferability. What the law of entail is for the aristocracy of England, the law of non-transferability is for the peasantry of Bengal. The people of Bengal depend almost entirely upon agriculture ; land is therefore their chief source of living, and the less facility there is for the transfer of land the better. As it is the law of inheritance and partition in this country has a constant tendency to an infinitessimal sub-division of the ancestral acres, and if to it be added an absolute law of transfer, the peasantry will be reduced to the position of day-labourer, and the Government will be ultimately driven to the necessity of passing a Poor-Law, than which a greater misfortune cannot befall the country. The ryot does not now suffer from the absence of the non-transferability of the occupancy tenure. He can now call the land his, and what is far more important can keep as well as eat his pie, however paradoxical this may sound. He holds the land and enjoys its produce after paying the usual rent to the landlord. But he will be a lack-lander the moment his right of transfer is recognized. He is not always provident, and he will have an additional temptation to improvidence, if he knows that he can sell his land and raise money. At present if he is in difficulty his first thought is to sell his cattle and agricultural implements, but he is restrained in it, because he must have the wherewithal to cultivate the land. But if the land goes, the cattle and implements will necessarily go. The Lieutenant Governor we respectfully submit cannot devise a more potent means of impoverishing the ryots and reducing them to bankruptcy than by declaring the transferability of the occupancy right. His Honor makes the proposal in the interests of the ryot, but if he will seriously think over the matter he will we dare say agree with us that what is necessary for the real benefit of the ryot is not the legalization of the right of transfer but the limitation of it, wherever it exists. It is, indeed, surprising that while in other parts of the country the Government is seeking to protect the land from sale for debt in order to prevent outsiders from ousting the hereditary holders of land, in Bengal it deliberately proposes a law, which will ultimately wrest the land from the hands of the cultivating class. There are many zemindars, we may mention, who are quite willing to concede the right of transfer to the ryot. They argue that the legislature having arbitrarily vested the land in the occupancy ryot, they have now no interest in it except what is represented by rent, and that if the value of land rises by the recognition of the right of transfer, they will have a good facility in realizing rent. But so far as security of rent goes, the right of eviction will answer the purpose. If the law of ejectment be facilitated, the ryot will fully realize his liability, and our own impression is that there will be no default.

In considering the question from the zemindar's point of view we wish to point out that it is the inherent right of the landlord to select his own tenant. If that right is taken away, then his proprietory right is practically confiscated. There are ryots and ryots ; there may be designing ryots, who in order to coerce the zemindar into their own terms may transfer their tenures to litigious and turbulent men, who may fight the zemindar out and out, and so push him to a corner as ultimately to compel him to sell his property. Then there are rival zemindars, who may constantly pick up quarrels between themselves by purchasing the jotes of ryots. Again, a ryot may substitute a man of straw as his tenant and thus force the zemindar into Court in every case of default. In these various ways the zemindar may be harassed in managing and maintaining his property, and the question is, would it be just and expedient to deliberately put him in that position ?

While on this subject we notice *en passant* the exclamation of the *Statesman*. He asks, "where or when have we ever said that the occupancy ryot should be allowed to sell his holding to whom he pleases?" He did so, when he supoported the Lieutenant Governor's proposal to recognize the transferability of the occupancy right. As for the limitation he proposes that the sale must be made to a *bona fide* cultivator, we have endeavoured to shew above that this condition cannot be practically enforced.

THE NOABAD SETTLEMENT OF CHITTAGONG.

MR. H. L. DAMPIER rendered a signal public service before he left the Board of Revenue on leave by giving something like a quietus to that burning question of Chittagong, the Noabad settlement. The history of the Noabad lands is long, complicated and tedious. The difference between the settlement in Chittagong and that in other districts of Bengal under Lord Cornwallis was this—in other parts of Bengal the permanent settlement was made of all lands in each man's possession, in Chittagong it was not. This difference of treatment constituted the grievance of the Chittagong people, who, in the words of Mr. Currie, "had been placed relatively in a worse position than the zemindars of permanently settled estates." The Noabad settlement of Chittagong has been an embarassment to the Government for three quarters of a century. In 1833 Mr. Harvey had a narrow escape in attempting to impose most arbitrary terms upon the owners of lands. Then was deputed Sir Henry Ricketts, who poured balm into the festering wounds. He made a survey of the lands and effected a settlement, which for a time allayed the discontent of the holders of Noabad lands. This settlement was ratified by no less an authority than Lord Dalhousie. The question was however reopened in 1863, again in 1865, and lastly in 1870-71. The last settlement was made by Sir George Campbell, and operations commenced. Now, what does the re-settlement of the Noabad lands mean ? We will give the answer in the words of Mr. Dampier. "The settlement operations penetrate into almost every village of the Chittagong district; it is said that 2,000 villages contain Noabad lands. I have seen an old settlement paper shewing an area of 14 druns (86 acres) in one village as divided amongst 113 different Noabad taluks. In every village these taluk lands are to be found interspersed among, and interlaced with, plots belonging to tarafs (as the permanently-settled estates of Chittagong are called), to lakhiraj holdings, and to the Jynugger estate. which has its lands similarly scattered. The Noabad lands are everywhere. Strips of them encircle the lands of other tenures; patches of them appear in the middle of permanently-settled blocks; they meander like ribbons up the vallies between the hills, following the water-courses; they are dotted here and there among dense forest; they are to be found under the Commissioner's windows in the station ; the boundary between the regulation district and Hill Tracts has to be pushed eastwards so as to bring the Noabad cultivation within the former. The interest taken in the subject is universal. The taluks are 32,258 in number; the tarafdars are also holders of Noabad taluks; the vakils and mukhtars hold them extensively; even if a tarafdar or lakhirajdar is not a talukdar also, he is interested in the settlement because the amins have to define the interlaced boundaries between the patches of land constituting his holding and the Noabad plots. You have an interview with a wealthy inhabitant of the district, he immediately begins upon Noabad ; you enter into a casual conversation with a person you meet, he turns it on to his Noabad taluk; it is a grievance with the tea-planter that the rights of the talukdars interfere with his turning waste into valuable tea land; groups of men lie in wait to make representations verbally or in writing about the Noabad settlement; you overhear the conversation of two passers-by they are talking Noabad; your khidmutgar asks for leave of absence on kist day to pay in the rent of his taluk.It is not too much to say that Noabad is the one subject of which the interest dominates over all others just now in the Chittagong district, excepting perhaps the high selling price of rice. Such is the universality of the Noabad question. No wonder that all Chittagong cries in one voice whenever there is any step taking,which smacks of arbitrary interference with Noabad rights."

After a most careful, patient and exhaustive enquiry, Mr. Dampier made certain recommendations, which are thus summarized :

(1)—Under existing orders of the Board all ryots on the taluks are treated as occupancy ryots ; their rate of rent is recorded, and they are protected from enhancement during the currency of the settlement. It is proposed thus to protect such ryots only as have acquired a right of occupancy, the rents of the others being recorded, but not being protected from enhancement at any time in due course of law.

(2)—It is now understood, no special orders having been given on the subject, that under the general settlement rules 20 per cent. is to be deducted from the ryots' rental in all cases in order to fix the revenue payable by the talukdars.

It is proposed to raise the talukdar's allowance to 25 per cent. unless the full quantity of one-fourth of waste land to three-fourths of cultivation is available for inclusion in his taluk free of assessment.

(3)—Under the name of itmams, tenures of very different kinds are claimed. It is proposed to deal with each according to its circumstances, old itmamdars who broke up the soil under the talukdars being recognized as the occupancy ryots and their rates of rent being recorded and protected from enhancement as such although the land in their tenures may now actually be cultivated by their subordinate ryots.

(4)—It is proposed to divide the surplus waste land which may be available after assigning its proper proportion to each taluk, into blocks of about 50 acres each, and to let them in farm for the period of the settlement (20 years) to the highest bidder, with an assessment and conditions imposed as specified.

(5)—Under the old settlement, settlement-holders were prohibited from deriving any profits from waste land and forest included in their holdings. It has been found that this prohibition is of no effect. It is proposed to authorize the settlement-holders to derive profit from forest and waste, and to place a light assessment on such lands.

(6)—If the above proposal be not adopted, it is proposed to take measures which shall, if possible, be effective to prevent settlement-holders levying imposts from the villagers for the use of forest produce and pasturage.

(7)—With the approval of the Board, the privilege of transferring their taluks without obtaining the permission of Government in each instance, is being withdrawn from the talukdars in the settlements now being made. It is proposed to continue this privilege in respect of the transfer of entire taluks, but not to allow the talukdars to divide taluks, or to create sub-tenures lasting beyond the term of their own leases.

(8)—Under the form of kabuliyat as sanctioned by the Board, the taluks being no longer transferabid tenures, arrears falling due on them cannot be realized summarily by Isae under Act XI of 1859 and Act VII (B.C.) of 1868 ; but recourse must be had to the too dilatory certificate procedure of the latter Act. It is proposed, in case the above proposal to allow the right of transfer to the talukdars be not adopted, to introduce a special clause in the engagements, declaring the taluks to be saleable under Act XI of 1859 for arrears.

(9)—It is proposed to reduce the long list of trees which the talukdars are prohibited from cutting down.

(10)—The orders of the Board are that, on engaging for a new settlement, each talukdar shall be required to pay the assessment which may be imposed on cultivated lands held by him in excess of the area of his kabuliyat from the date on which the last settlement expired. As the period would in many cases embrace three, four, and five years, it is proposed to give up this demand, and to demand payment only from the year after the resettlement is made.

(11)—It is proposed to place the Settlement Officer directly under the orders of the Commissioner.

Outside the resettlement which is now being carried on—

(12)—The orders of the Lieutenant-Governor are sought as to the enforcement of the right of the Government to identify and assess at once lands which are now occupied by tarafdars and talukdars whose leases have not expired. It is proposed as a first experiment to cause all the lands of a selected

thana to be identified, measured, and mapped by the Settlement Officer's party.

These recommendations are fair, equitable and practicable. But we are sorry to observe that the Government of Bengal has considerably modified them. With regard to the first point the Lieutenant Governor remarks that "since the issue of Sir George Campbell's settlement orders in 1871, it has been the usual practice that in Government estates ryots, who sign the jummabundi, cannot have their rents enhanced during the term of the settlement, whether they enjoy rights of occupancy or not. Mr. Dampier's proposal involves, therefore, the putting of non-occupancy ryots on these Noabad talooks in a worse position than is now ordinarily conceded to similar ryots on other Government estates. Mr. Eden is decidedly of opinion that, when the rents have been assessed and the jummabundi has been signed, there should be no power of enhancement during the currency of the settlement, and he does not see how the talookdar has any sort of equitable claim to such enhancement. If an exception is in any case to be made, these Noabad talooks would appear to be the last instant which should be selected for making it; since, as regards these particular estates, it is the ryot who has made the land valuable and who is consequently entitled to protection on special grounds. The Lieutenant-Governor desires accordingly the maintenance of the principle that all ryots entered in the jummabundi shall be protected from enhancement during the term of the settlement." The Lieutenant Governor we fear forgets an essential distinction between the Government khas estate and a Noabad estate. The Government is the owner of the estate in a khas mehal, but in a Noabad estate the proprietory right is vested in the talukdar. The Government has a right to the revenue, but nothing more. As for the rights of the ryots they ought to be governed by the ordinary law of the land. To bar the right of the landlord to enhancement of rent from non-occupancy ryots would be simply to confiscate the proprietor's right. But this is what the Government has actually done. We are surprised that the Government has rejected the recommendation on this point of a revenue officer so able, so well informed, so experienced and so just as Mr. Dampier. If a talookdar holds more lands than what he is justly entitled to, by all means take back those lands or make fresh assessment upon him, but on what principle is the ordinary law of the land as regards enhancement of rent set aside? The reasons assigned by Government are not at all satisfactory. Then Mr. Dampier's recommendation for the increase of the talukdari allowance is not accepted. Mr. Dampier proposed to raise the talukdar's allowance to 25 per cent. on the gross rental, unless he gets with his talook, free of assessment, waste lands in the proportion of one-fourth to three-fourths of cultivated land. The Lieutenant Governor remarks: "That the old settlement allowance used to be 10 per cent. It was raised to 20 per cent. some three or four years ago. Only last year the Board represented that in some estates this allowance of 20 per cent. was needlessly large, and the Lieutenant-Governor ordered that the full percentage need not be given as a matter of course, but only where the circumstances of the case made it fair to allow it. Moreover it appears from the enclosure to Mr. E. Currie's report, dated 5th February 1853, on the civil administration, &c., of the Chittagong district, that, by the showing of the people themselves, the collection charges in the Noabad talooks were never more than 10 per cent. It is no doubt possible that the charges have increased since then, but they can hardly have more than doubled." But in Orissa the allowance ranges from 30 to 50 per cent.

The Lieutenant Governor has accepted most of the other suggestions of Mr. Dampier. There is one point in Mr. Dampier's suggestions to which we would call attention. He suggested that if the transferability of the talooks be not recognized, it should be recognized in case of arrears of revenue. The principle, it will be observed, is the same on which the British Indian Association recommended that the occupancy tenure should be declared saleable for arrears of rent.

THE POWERS OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE.

THE GREAT Garo Hill case, in which the most important question of the powers of the Indian Legislative Council was involved, has been decided by the Privy Council. It might be remembered that a majority of the High Court had declared the Garo Hills Act *ultra vires*. The ground on which the majority assumed jurisdiction was, that the 9th section of the Act of 1869, purporting to authorize the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to extend the Act to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, was in excess of the legislative powers of the Governor-General in Council. In the argument before their Lordships of the Privy Council, the jurisdiction of the High Court was sought to be supported, not on that ground only, but on two others also, *viz.* (1.), that the Act of 1869 did not according to its true construction, exclude the jurisdiction of the High Court as to the Garo Hills, and, therefore, could not do so as to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, assuming them to have been brought within its operation; and (2) that the whole Act of 1869, (at least so far as it might affect the jurisdiction of the High Court), and not section 9 only, was void and *ultra vires* of the Indian Legislature. The Privy Council does not agree with the majority of the High Court. It argues that both under Acts of Parliament and the Letters Patent the Indian Legislative Councils are fully competent to legislate in matters affecting the jurisdiction of the High Court. It remarks: "The 9th section of 24 and 25 Vict., cap. 104, expressly says, that each of the High Courts shall, within its own Presidency, have such Civil, Criminal and other jurisdiction "as Her Majesty may, by her Letters Patent, grant and direct;" and that, "save as by such Letters Patent may be otherwise directed, and subject and without prejudice to the legislative powers in relation to the matters aforesaid of the Governor-General of India in Council," the High Court in each Presidency shall have all the jurisdiction of the former Supreme and Sudder Courts, abolished by section 8. The authority of the Indian Legislature over the jurisdiction of the High Courts (so far, at all events, as the exercise of that authority might be consistent with Her Majesty's Letters Patent) is here distinctly recognized." Again: "In the leading judgment of Mr. Justice Markby, the principles of the doctrine of agency are relied on; and the Indian Legislature seems to be regarded as, in effect, an agent or delegate, acting under a mandate from the Imperial Parliament, which must in all cases be executed directly by itself. Their Lordships cannot but observe that, if the principle thus suggested were correct, and justified the conclusion drawn from it, they would be unable to follow the distinction made by the majority of the Judges between the power conferred upon the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by the 2nd and that conferred on him by the 9th section. If, by the 9th section, it is left to the Lieutenant-Governor to determine whether the Act, or any part of it, shall be applied to a certain district, by the 2nd section it is also left to him to determine at what time that Act shall take effect as law any where. Legislation which does not directly fix the period for its own commencement, but leaves that to be done by an external authority, may with quite as much reason be called incomplete, as that which does not itself immediately determine the whole area to which it is to be applied, but leaves this to be done by the same external authority. If it is an act of legislation on the part of the external authority so trusted to enlarge the area within which a law actually in operation is to be applied, it would seem *a fortiori* to be an act of legislation to bring the law originally into operation by fixing the time for its commencement.'' Thus a most important constitutional question has been set at rest. The following remarks of the Privy Council are very important:

"The established Courts of Justice, when a question arises whether the prescribed limits have been exceeded, must of necessity determine that question; and the only way in which they they can properly do so, is by looking to the terms of the instrument by which, affirmatively the legislative powers were created, and by which, negatively they are restricted. If what has been done is legislation, within the general scope of the affirmative words which give the power, and if it violates no express condition or restriction by which that power is limited, (in which category would, of course, be included any Act of the Imperial Parliament at variance with it), it is not for any Court of Justice to inquire further, or to enlarge constructively those conditions and restrictions.

Their Lordships agree that the Governor-General in Council, could not, by any form of enactment, create in India, and arm with general legislative authority, a new legislative Power, not created or authorized by the Council's Act."

It will be seen from the above that the Indian Legislature has no power to delegate the function of legislation to any external authority. In other words the power which it gives to the Municipalties to make bye-laws, as pointed out by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra the other day, is *ultra vires*. The Municipalities then virtually become a new lagislative power, which is inconsistent with the Parliamentary Statute constituting the Indian Lagislature. Then it will be observed that the Courts of Justice are fully competent to consider and decide as to whether the lagislature in any particular case has exceeded its powers. It has done so, as we contend, in passing the Road Cess and Public Works Cess Acts, and a suit would therefore lie against the Government in this matter. It is a pity that the Zemindars have yet taken no steps to contest this important constitutional question in a competent court of justice.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE UNDERSTAND that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will pay a flying visit to Calcutta in the beginning of next month.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to reward the humane exertions of Babu Kristochunder Chuckerbutty, the Doctor, who saved the life of an unfortunate woman at Chinsurah from drowning. His Honor has ordered that a gold watch be presented to him with the following inscription:

Presented to Baboo Kristo Chunder Chuckerbutty, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in recognition of his generous and humane exertions in rescuing a woman from drowning in the River Hooghly.

IN VIEW of the importance that is attached by the Military authorities to the winter camps of exercise provision for one was made in the Budget this year, though it was felt that untoward circumstances such as a European war or an Indian famine might intervene to prevent its being held. Up to the present time it is still uncertain how far these possible contingencies may interfere with the proposed arrangements, but barring such interference it is probable that the camp will be formed at Hussun Abdul about the 1st December next. No details of the troops likely to be assembled are as yet available.

WE UNDERSTAND that His Majesty the King of Burmah having agreed to the proposal, made at the suggestion of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, that the Burma workmen engaged in repairing the old temple and other buildings at Buddha Gaya should be placed under the direction of an officer appointed by the Bengal Government, the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged that the work shall in future be carried on under the supervision of the District Engineer Mr. C. A. Mills, in communication with the Collector of Gaya and Dr. Rajendralala Mitra. Of course the work can only be carried on as funds are made available by the King of Burma.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, whilst Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, proposed to create a subordinate judicial agency to be called Sub-Munsifs on a salary of Rs. 150 a month. The subject has since engaged the attention of the present Government of Bengal. The heavy work, which has accumulated in the Munsifs' Courts in consequence of rent suits, has led the High Court to urge upon the Bengal Government the necessity of appointing a few additional Munsifs. Sir Ashley Eden has accordingly consented to appoint thirty new Munsifs on a salary of Rs. 200 a month. His Honor with that breadth of mind, which usually characterizes him, holds that the reduction of the Munsif's pay to Rs. 150 a month would be a retrograde move. While the Government of India seems to be anxious to open to educated natives offices of responsibility and emoluments, it would not be consistent with that liberal policy to degrade the native judicial service by

creating a class of Sub-Munsifs on low pay. His Honor has accordingly assimilated the pay of the new Munsif to the initial pay of the Deputy Magistrate.

WE ARE glad to observe that the Mahomedan community of Calcutta are shewing life. They have established a political Association under the name of "National Mahomedan Association." The Newab Amir Ali has become the President of the Association, and several other good men have joined it. Already 150 gentlemen have enrolled themselves as members. We wish the new Association every success.

WE TAKE the following from Parliamentary intelligence:

"Sir G. Campbell asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the ordinary pay of the Indian troops employed in the Perak Expedition at the instance of the Governor of the Straits Settlements, for the period when they were beyond the Indian dominions at Her Majesty, was charged to the Indian Exchequer, or was to be otherwise provided for.

Mr. E. Stanhope: The ordinary pay of the Indian troops in that expedition is charged to the Indian Exchequer.

The Straits are under the Colonial Office. Why should the Indian Treasury have been charged with the expenses of the Perak Expedition?

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has rightly made a clean sweep of the district officers of Nuddea more or less connected with the Lokenathpore case. This is as it should be. But a poor Sub-Inspector of Police was removed long before the fiat of His Honor had been issued, though he was one, who seemed to be alive to his duty. This Sub-Inspector did not accept the malicious suicide theory, and produced evidence to the contrary. The District Superintendent of Police did not believe him, and so he recommended his transfer. And the poor man was transferred to Noakhally, where he has broken his health. His name is Herombo Chunder Chuckerbutty. Perhaps Mr. Munro may see fit to enquire into this man's case.

WE ARE INFORMED that General Strachey will officiate for Sir John Strachey as Finance Minister during the absence of the latter in England and has consequently resigned his seat in the Indian Council. It is probable that he will make over his duties as President of the Famine Commission to the Hon'ble Mr. Cunningham. This arrangement means that General Strachey will permanently succeed to the Finance Ministership. He has resigned his seat in the Indian Council. When his brother comes back, he will resume his office of President of the Famine Commission, and by the time the labors of the Commission will be over the former will in all likelihood make room in favour of the latter. Richard we believe is a more liberal man than John, but we do not think the predominance of a single family in the government of a country for years is healthful. The Stracheys have been in power since 1865 with the exception of a few years during which Lord Northbrook held the reins of Government.

THE ENGLISHMAN has received the following telegram from Bombay:

Bombay, July 5.—Yesterday the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Kemball granted a rule *nisi* on an application made to their Lordships that the trial of the Surat Editors be transferred to the High Court under its extraordinary Criminal Jurisdiction. The petitioners allege that the condition of Surat is wholly unfit for the purposes of justice, witnesses being afraid to speak the truth, lest they should be arrested by the police, who are alleged to be going about searching for witnesses with blank warrants in their pockets. The trial at Surat is ordered to be temporarily stopped.

The public will now have confidence in the administration of justice in respect to the Surat Riots case.

OUR READERS will perhaps remember that the late Babu Chooneelal Seal, second son of the late Babu Muttylal Seal, made a handsome bequest of Rs. 60,000 for the establishment of a charitable dispensary in this city. The last *Calcutta Gazette* contains the resolution of the Lieutenant Governor on the bequest and its disposal. The executors of the will of the deceased are prepared to make over to Government the sum of Rs. 10,000 or 12,000 for a building for the accommodation of the dispensary and a further sum of Rs. 50,000 to be invested for the maintenance of the institution. The dispensary will be erected on premises No. 469 College Street adjoining the Medical College Hospital grounds. The conditions stipulated by the executors are that the dispensary shall be called "Chooneelal Seal's Charitable Dispensary," the name to be inscribed in large letters in English and Bengali on the front of the building; that the Government shall engage to keep up the dispensary; that they shall be allowed to visit it whenever they may think fit and that no further claim shall be made upon them. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted the terms of the executors on the understanding that accommodation will be provided for indoor patients. A Committee will be appointed, of which a representative of the testator's family will be a member, and the Surgeon General of Bengal, the Principal of the Medical College, and the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, will be ex-officio members. The duty of this Committee will be to see that the bequest is expended in accordance with the wishes and intentions of the founder of the charity. We wish the executors of the deceased had insisted upon the dispensary being opened in a quarter of the town where gratuitous medical aid is not available. It will be almost superfluous in the neighbourhood of the Medical College Hospital, where there is a separate dispensary for out-door patients.

THE PRESENT Government of India professes to be an advocate of decentralization, but in all important matters of administration it seeks to centralize all authority in its own hands. Even in such a small matter as raising subscriptions for famine relief and other benevolent objects the Government of India has ruled that the Local Governments shall not address an appeal to England or join a public movement without the sanction of the Government of India. Is not this imperialism with a vengeance?

WHENEVER economy is talked of, the public generally point to the Commissariat as one of those departments in which large retrenchments are feasible. We are, therefore, glad to learn that the Government of India is about to appoint a Commission to enquire into and report on the Commissariat Department with a view to simplify the accounts. The present system of accounts was introduced by Col., now Sir George, Balfour, which has been attended with much increase of expenditure. A simplification of the accounts will we hope lead to a thorough and effective control of the Commissariat charges. In 1851, the Government appointed a Commission to enquire into the Commissariat Department, consisting of Mr. C. Allen, the Financial Secretary, Col. Stuart, the Military Secretary, and Col. Anderson, Superintendent of Gun Foundry, and our late lamented friend Baron Dowleans as Secretary. This Commission did not recommend any change in the system of accounts, but the revelations they made led to the abolition of the Military Board, in reference to which Lord Dalhousie made the famous remark, which has since passed into almost a proverb, "Boards are screens." Sir George Balfour, however, introduced changes in the system of accounts, which without increasing efficiency has entailed increased expenditure. We hope the proposed Commission will be made thoroughly effective. We do not know who will compose the Commission, but we venture to submit certain names. The Commission could not have a better President than Col. J. Keer, Assistant Commissary General, who has a good knowledge of the department, its highways and bye-ways, and combines great ability with a rare decision of character. It was his public spirit, which dragged into light the misdoings of Col. Lowe, the late Assistant Commissary General, who has been since cashiered. In reference to this matter we would invite the attention of Government to G. O. C. G. dated the 25th November 1871, in which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Napier, says, "Lieutenant Col. Keer has performed a most painful duty actuated I believe by conscientious motives and merits the approval of the Government." There are two other officers, whose association with the Commission, would enlist public confidence, we refer to Mr. R. H. Holingberry, and Mr. G. C. Kerr. An abler man than Mr. Hollingberry there is not in the Financial Department. Mr. E. C. Kerr, Personal Assistant to the Commissary General, is looked upon as a walking dictionary of the Commissariat Department—indeed, he is called the Commissariat lawyer. A Commission so constituted will we feel confident render substantial service to the State.

IT WAS our misfortune to differ from the Vice-regal Council when they passed the Civil Procedure Bill in hot haste in March of last year because of the approaching departure of Sir Arthur Hobhouse. We contended that there were many imperfections in the Bill, which ought to have been corrected before it was finally passed. Sir Arthur Hobhouse disclaimed that there was any personal motive in passing the Bill at once. He said:

"He had seen some appeals publicly made to him of late not to allow any desire he might feel to connect his name to the passing of this measure to influence him in trying to pass it. Now, these appeals had not been made in any rude or disrespectful spirit; on the contrary, in terms that were too complimentary to him. But there were one or two observations to be made upon them. In the first place, a man who builds a house on the sand would be a wise man compared to himself, if he were to hope for any immortality, because he happened to be the law member for Council at the time when the Bill was passed into law. He hoped that this Code would be an improvement on the Code of 1856. But it was not so great or difficult a work as the Code of 1859, because it was not nearly so original a work, and yet who connected the names of the Code of 1859 with that Code? In fact, if there ever was a law that was framed by the concurrence of a number of skilled men, this was such a law, and if he were to proceed to appropriate it to himself because he happened to be the spokesman in Council, he should be an impostor, and some condign punishment would infallibly overtake him. He thought in this Council he need not disclaim any personal motive, but he wished to say that, in point of fact, there could be no personal motive in his pressing on the passing of this Bill."

Well, read what Mr. Stokes said in moving for leave to introduce the Bill to amend the Procedure Code:

"He said that that Code had now been in force for nearly nine months, and the object of the present Bill was to make some amendments which experience had shown to be either necessary or desirable. He might mention that the late Law Member, as well as the rest of the Select Committee, had fully anticipated the necessity for making amendements would arise in a short time after the Code had become law. It was, however, thought desirable that the Code should be enacted while Sir Arthur Hobhouse was in the country, so as to give the Indian public the great benefit of the explanations which the Council would remember he made on the occasion of the Code being passed. But *gni grano ha la suä semola*, 'every grain has its bran,' and it must be confessed that this benefit was somewhat counterbalanced by certain faults, both in form and substance, which would probably have been corrected had more time been given to revise the numerous alterations made by the Select Committee in the last edition of the Bill."

We commend this candid confession of Mr. Stokes. But is it creditable to the Council that it should have to tinker such an important measure after nine months of its operation? Hasty legislation is the besetting fault of our Government, and here is one fruit of its impulsiveness.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows:

I have just come to learn that there is a proposal before the Government of Bengal for the location of the Headquarters of the Rajshahi and Cooch Behar Divisions at Darjeeling. Hitherto the Commissioner used to stay at Julpigurí for six months from 1st November to 30th April and at Darjeeling for the remaining six months.

Darjeeling is no doubt a favourite place for Europeans, but for suitors and ministerial officers it has no charm whatever. People find it very inconvenient to proceed to that hill station for preferring their appeals before the Commissioner. The accommodation is very insufficient. Sometimes eight to ten amlas shove themselves together in one small room. The living, moreover, is extremely dear.

I hope you will be good enough to take the matter into your consideration and notice it in the *Patriot*. Julpigorí and Saidpur both on the Railway line and therefore easily accessible to the people of the several districts in this division have the best claim. It is hardly fair to look to the convenience of only one individual, that is the Commissioner, in deciding such an important question. I hope His Honor will decide it on broad public grounds without reference to personal considerations.

HUMANITY OR CREED?

DEAR SIR,—The following lines were written by me early on the "Eastern Difficulty." Though a Liberal and never other than a Liberal, I neither had nor have any sympathy with the attacks made on Lord Beaconsfield on the ground of his race. The lines were not suited to the Liberal Press, and as I had no wish to figure in a Tory paper, they were laid aside, and probably would have remained so, if Mr. Bright had not deepened with his mighty emphasis the sneer against the Premier's race. I now venture to send them to you who have no race prejudice, to publish or otherwise as you please.

AN ENGLISHMAN, London, June 5th.

DENOUNCE HIM FOR HIS RACE.

"The Jew at the head of Her Majesty's Government:" —"The Asiatic tendencies of our marvellous Prime Minister."

Gist and point of many speeches and articles.

"I cannot disguise from myself the fact that the Jews, apparently a large majority, are among thi supporters of Turkey and the opponents of effectua relief to Christians. The Christians will be delivered and at no very distant date. That I hold to be as certain as any future can be. If I am alive, and in politics, I shall strongly plead for their allowing free equality of civil rights to the Jews, but I cannot do this upon the ground that the conduct of the Jews has deserved their gratitude." *Portion of a letter from Mr. Gladstone published in the Jewish Chronicle.*

When Benjamin the Premier,
Who cloudier days had seen,
Received his seals of office
From Victoria the Queen,
A hundred ringing cheers arose—
The scoffers were but few :
Sermons were pointed from the words—
"The Premier is a Jew".

Meek unctuous men, th'elect of Heaven—
Discovered that, of old,
Each art and part the Queen had done
The Prophets had foretold ;
And "Little Benjamin," now made
A Ruler among men,
Became a choice prophetic theme
For pulpit and for pen.

'Twas shown, in many a sacred place,
How Heaven had pleased to bless
Its "ancient people," in their need,
With marvellous success ;
How Joseph, Esther, Daniel,
In regal grandeur rose,
And benefited all their friends,
And punished all their foes.

Achilles stumbled to his tent—
Once more in Ancient Troy*—
And looked with scorn while Fashion bowed
In homage to Alroy.

Foemen were silenced in that hour.
Few ventured then to hint
What many now can fulminate,
And many more can print :
With England's honour in the scale—
With thunder-clouds in view—
The hateful winged words go back—
"The Premier is a Jew".

Ignoble words at first (for sure—
There wretched Jews had been)
Yet never quite so base as now,
And never quite so mean ;
A generous man might praise where skill
And courage had been shown,
But never generous man would strike
Against one man alone—

Who shared with many in one band,
The honour or disgrace—
And strike him to the coward cry—
"Denounce him for his race".
His race? Great God, the same old curse—
Ancient yet ever new,
The mark of Cain some men would pass,
Yet stop to curse a Jew!

Denounce him!—bid his friends observe
His step begins to reel!
The Champion's list is closed to him—
He cannot use his steel!
Bitter he was, yet face to face—
In what men call fair play—
He met his foe, and struck the blow,
Straight forward in his day.

Proudly he said the bitter word,
With head and front erect,
Yet, fierce in fight, he had a way
Which England might respect,
Of scorning when he met the foe—
Even though for party ends—
To strike a chief more mortally
By flattering his friends.

Ye great old Tories—stupid too
And selfish, wise men say—
You can at any rate stand firm
Upon the battle day :
And come what may from this death-grip
Of Russian and of Turk
You made your chief Prime Minister,
And cheer him to his work.—
What made the whigs of Sheridan?
Nay, what of Edmund Burke?

I cannot see your chivalry,
Ye Cottonop'lis band,
Who claimed to raise in bygone days
The humblest in the land.
Where is your boasted "Bible truth",
Your talk of simple right?
Where is thy generous word to-day,
Thou eloquent John Bright?

And thou, ex-Premier, strong in fight,
Achilles in thy day,
Canst thou not tell in burning words
No sea can wash away,
That ages past the ONE who spake
In living words and true
To every beating human heart,
Both lived and died a Jew?

"To Jew and Greek alike I speak"—
The proud ex-Premier cries—
"Resist the Turk—now that the Cross
"The Crescent's power defies :
"Ye recreant Jews, for you I'll plead
"When all this strife is o'er,
"But talk not of deserving help
"Henceforth for evermore."

Ah, haughty keen ex-Premier
Within thine oaken doors
For many years of hopes and fears
Thou layest up thy stores.
Thou wilt do this, and that, and more,
With gifts conferred on few,
Thou'lt speak for Christian as for friend :
Thou'lt tolerate the Jew.

Ah, mighty, strong ex-Premier,
Look now to East and North,
And tell us if thou canst divine
What one day may bring forth ;
Pierce the dark clouds, rend back the veil
That every eye may see,
But—wondrous athlete of debate!—
Some secret there may be,
Which He, the God of all alike,
May hide from even thee.

Long ere thy pledge could be redeemed,
The monumental stone,
Within the Abbey's walls might tell
How thou and thou alone,
Of all the hero-men whose lines
In this dark cycle ran,
Could write of "Christian," "Jew," and "Turk"
Where God hath written "Man".

Oh! bid those rabid men to pause ;
Prick them one Moslem vein,
Kindred to those now pouring blood
On Mountain and on Plain ;
And if fanatic men can see
That Jew and Turk may bleed,
Point to that Human Faith which yet
Will stand o'er every Creed.

Christian is higher far than Jew.
But why? Let Oxford tell!
Let Chapel join with Conference
And probe the question well!
Higher, that blest by God it knows
One race in every clime,
White man and black man, rich and poor,
Since the first hour of time ;
Higher, because while time endures,
As erst since time began,
The Christian sees his gracious Lord
The very Son of Man.

The Lord can more than tolerate—
Deserving knows He none ;
Mercy and kinship are His theme
Through all the ages gone.
Mercy and kindness—Christ—like words
Still stand in human view,
And fall "like rain from Heaven" on Turk,
On Christian and on Jew.

Neutrale England's high behest,
All Englishmen must stand,
But waves of sympathy will flow
Resistless o'er the land.
Let them ; if we can also see,
Flow from each graphic pen,
In tales of war, on sea and land,
Wherever men meet men,
The one unerring changeless truth—
Eternal as the hills—
That, though event succeed event
As the great Father wills ;
Though Czar and Sultan, thanks proclaim
To Him who sits on high,
While millions suffer want and pain
And countless myriads die ;
No despot ever fought to free—
Invoke what name he might ;
His prayers and praise, his ringing words,
His—"God defend the right"—
Have evermore since time began,
By legions borne along,
Been pointed by the lawless lust
For cruelty and wrong.

Then, England, standing calm and firm
With clear and single eye,
And "trust in God", will not forget
To "keep her powder dry :"
Nor will her free and fearless heart,
Unchecked by iron creed,
Find other claim to Mercy
Than the HUMAN HEART IN NEED.

* See Mr, Gladstone on the Exhumed Treasures of Troy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
T. Vencatta Cheelum Esq., Bellary District.....	13	4	0
Syud Zumiddeen Hossain Khan Bahadoor, Bankipore.....	20	0	0
Dr. G. C. Roy, Soory.....	13	4	0
Moulvi Mobaruk Aly, Mymensingh.....	13	4	0
Deorao Vinayak Esq., Secy. Genl, Liby, Berar...	13	4	0
Baboo Hurry Mohun Hor, Buxar.....	6	10	0
,, Jodoo Krishna Sircar, Tehree	10	0	0
,, Hurrish Chunder Samonto, Bokra.....	13	4	0
,, Nundalal Ghose, Bankipore.....	10	0	0
,, Chunder Coomar Chatterjea, Rajpoor Concern.....	13	4	0
,, Nuddia Chand Dutt, Pooree	9	0	0
,, Deno Nath Mookerjee Roy Bahadoor, Hazaribaugh	13	4	0
,, Sree Nath Chatterjee Darjeeling.....	13	4	0
,, Bhoobone Chunder Halder, Darjeeling...	13	8	0
,, Beressar Chuckerbuty, Hazaribaugh ...	13	4	0
,, Tarini Churn Sircar, Buxar.....	6	10	0
,, Amulya Rutton Mookerjee, Durbhanga...	2	0	0
,, Bejoy Nath Bora, Delangpar	5	0	0
,, Moula Singh, Monghyr.....	5	0	0
,, Raj Nath Pershad, Azimgurh.....	6	10	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*July* 3, 1878.

GENERAL.—Baboo Juggobundho Khan, temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it,

Baboo Juggobundhoo Khan is transferred to Maldah on the expiry of his present leave.

Baboo Okhoy Coomar Bose, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is transferred to Dinagepore.

Baboo Koylash Chunder Chatterjee, Officiating Sub-Deputy Collector, Bhagulpore is transferred to the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and is posted to Deoghur.

Baboo Rajgopal Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Lohardugga, was employed in Hazareebagh from the 15th May to the 18th June 1877, and in Lohardugga from the 19th June 1877, to the date on which he assumed charge of the office of Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore Division.

REGISTRATION.—Baboo Keshub Lall Roy, Rural Sub-Registrar of Kotchandpore, in the district of Jessore, is transferred to Gudkhally in that district.

Baboo Sridhur Roy, late Sub-Registrar of Busseerhat, in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to be Sub-Registrar of Kotchandpore in the disttict of Jessore.

EDUCATION.—In modification of the orders of the 1st instant, Baboo Nanda Lal Sen, Deputy Inspector of Schools (Second Grade,) Noakholly, is transferred to Mymensingh, *vice* Baboo Baikanth Nath Roy.

Baboo Kanti Chandra Chatterjee, Sub-Inspector of Schools (First Grade), Choadanga, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of School, Third Grade, *vice* Baboo Nanda Lal Sen, and is posted to the Nuddea district.

Baboo Kumud Bandhu Bose, Sub-Inspector of Schools (First Grade), Chooadanga, is appointed to officiate as Deputy Inspector of Schools, Third Grade, *vice* Baboo Kanti Chandra Chatterjee, and is posted to the district of Noakholly.

Baboo Omesh Chundra Dutt, Professor, Kishnaghur College, is appointed to act in the Third Class of the Bengal Educational Service, *vice* Mr S. F. Downing.

JUDICIAL.—Baboo Srigopal Chatterjee, is appointed to act as an Additional Moonsif at Dewangunge, in the district Noakholly, till the commencement of the ensuing Dusserah vacation.

Baboo Khetter Mohun Mookerjee, B.L., is appointed to act as an Additional Moonsif at Narail, in the district of Jessore, till the commencement of the ensuing Dusserah vacation.

Baboo Roy Matadin, Subordinate Judge, Gya, is allowed leave for fifteen days under Rule 1, Section 31, Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st proximo, or from any subsequent day, within one month of that date on which he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Abinash Chunder Mitter, B.L., Additional Moonsif of Ranta, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Gya, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Roy Matadin or until further orders.

Mr. A. Monies, Assistant Engineer, Arrah, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class.

Mr. J. H. Toogood, Assistant Engineer, Arrah, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class.

Baboo Kedar Nath Roy, M.A., B.L, is appointed to officiate as Moonsif of Barabari, in the district of Rungpore, during the absence, on leave of Baboo Denobundhoo Roy, or until further orders.

Advertisements.

VALUABLE BOOKS OFFERED CHEAP FOR CASH.

Goldstucker's Manava Kalpa Sutra, being a portion of the Ancient Vaidic Rites with the commentary of Kumaral Swamin, *unused copy* (put £4. 4s.) Rs. 35.

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CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

NOTICE.

The Senate of the University of Calcutta will proceed in the month of August next to the election of a Tagore Law Professor for such term as the Senate may approve.

The Salary of the Professorship is Rs. 10,000 per annum, and one of the conditions of the appointment is that the Professor shall deliver in each year a course of lectures on some branch of Law.

Candidates for the Professorship are requested to forward their applications to the Registrar before the 27th July, and at the some time to state on what subject or subjects they are prepared to lecture.

Senate House } CHARLES H. TAWNEY,
The 6th July 1878. } *Registrar.*

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The Assam portion is miles long, extending from the Biskhowah Nulla in the 49th mile to Dhubri in the 65th mile. The total quantity of earthwork to be done is about 290 lakhs of cubic feet.

Tenders should specify the rate per 1000 cubic feet at which the earthwork will be undertaken and whether they are for the whole or only a part of the road. In the latter case tenders should specify the quantity of earthwork proposed to be undertaken and in what miles it is situated.

Work is to be commenced not later than 15th November 1878, and completed by the 15th March 1879. Earnest money to the amount of Rs. 500 must accompany each tender, and security will be required to be deposited on acceptance of any tender, to the extent of 10 per cent of the value of the work undertaken.

Tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Lower Assam Division, Dhubri, and will be received up to the 10th August 1878. The right of rejecting any or all of the tenders is reserved.—

For further particulars and forms of tender, apply to the undersigned.

Dhubri,
The 1st July 1878. } BHOLANATH DASS, C. E.
Executive Engineer Lower Assam Division.

Notice.

Bhoobun Mohun Chatterji, L.M.S., Medical Practitioner. Residence No. 18, Amherst Street. Fee in town 2 Rs. during the day; night fee 4 Rs.

NOTICE.

To be peremptorily sold under a decree of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction made in Suit No. 357 of 1876 (wherein Gyapersaud Mullick residing at Durpanarain Takoor's Street in the Town of Calcutta, Land-holders is Plaintiff and Sreemutty Tareeny Dabee residing at Vanderhatty in the District of Hoogly, wife of Modhoosoodun Chowdhry, and the said Modhoosoodun Chowdhry of the same place but at present residing at Shambazar in Calcutta Stock dealer are Defendants) and dated the seventeenth day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventy six by the Registrar of the said land in his sale room in the Court House on Saturday the twentieth day of July next at the hour of twelve o'clock at noon the undermentioned property namely

All those future Talooks called Auther Chokkun Guddue Heerut Chapsarah containing Mouzahs Auther Chowkun Guddue Heerut and Chapsarah in Pergunnah Chowmaha in the District of Hooghly in the Registration District of Hooghly and in the Registration Sub-District of Dhoneekhally Thannah, Dhoneekhally being Lot No. 46 in the Tanzal of the Collectorate of Hooghly subject to payment of Annual Jummah a revenue of rupees two thousand six hundred and fifty to Kallydass Banerjee, and Rajkristo Banerjee.

This property was advertised for sale on the Twentieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventy seven as Lot No. 4, but was not then sold.

The conditions of sale and abstract of title may be seen at the Office of Messrs Swinhœ and Company the Plaintiffs Attorneys and at the office of the Registrar High Court original side on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

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High Court Original Jurisdiction.
The 17th June 1878.

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G. M. DRURY,
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Traffic Supdt.'s Office,
Saidpur, 7th June 1878.

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District of Maunbhum Deputy Commissioner's Office,
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Report by the Directors
PRESENTED TO THE
Sixty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company
Held at Edinburgh on Friday, 5th April 1878.

The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last:—

Life Business.

During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003.580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049: 10: 5.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 10 Endowments, were 280 in number, arising under 341 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount with Bonus additions, to the sum of £299,863: 10: 6.

As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876:11:7, being £105,446: 17: 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576: 19: 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248: 8: 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768: 11: 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479: 16: 6.

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